

The Baptist Record

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Teens get tips on how to minister in crisis pregnancy

By Tim Nicholas

(This article is first in a series of three on issues facing today's teens.)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — When Laurie Taylor was a missionary to Brazil, her volunteer work on the maternity floor of the Baptist hospital in Fortaleza gave her empathy for mothers who couldn't keep their babies. Over time, mothers tried to give eight babies to her to find a home for them.

One child whom Taylor helped place went to her sister and brother-in-law. They had adopted one child in an American adoption. And then they adopted Matthew in Brazil after Taylor was asked to find a home for the child.

Taylor didn't know Matthew's birth mother personally, but she spoke with the mother's Christian employer shortly before the child was born. Taylor and her sister, in planning for the adoption, had been calling the child "Matthew," which means "gift from God." On the phone, the employer said the birth mother called the child "Mateus."

"She called him by the same name (in Portuguese)," Taylor said. The birth mother had given him the same name — a gift from God, but a gift she couldn't keep.

"He was a double gift from God," Taylor said. "My sister had been praying for another child."

She said this coincidence convinced her that God's hand was on the adoption.

Early Interest

But her Brazilian experiences were not the only ones Taylor has had with mothers having difficulties keeping their babies. In fact, she always has had an interest in

that direction.

When she was a member of Girls' Auxiliary, the forerunner to Girls in Action, the missions organization for girls in elementary school, Taylor remembers writing the Sellers Home asking how adoption procedures worked. The Sellers Home is a home in Tallulah, La., for unwed mothers. At that time, it was operated by the Home Mission Board. Today it is operated by the Louisiana Convention.

Just before appointment as a missionary to Brazil in 1985, Taylor was in the process of being accepted into a pediatric chaplaincy program in Kentucky. Later, in Fortaleza where she did her volunteer work, the hospital—the only Baptist one in Equatorial Brazil was less than a mile from her home, making participation on the maternity floor possible.

Taylor and her husband, Johnny, had to return home so their child could undergo tests to determine a developmental disability. During this time, she worked three months as a substitute teacher in a prenatal program.

School Days

While Johnny Taylor took an interim job as a minister of education, Laurie Taylor requested to be a substitute teacher in special education. She'd always been interested in special education, but her college advisor had told her that gifted students don't go into that field. So she majored in regular education.

Today, she has a master's degree in religious education from Southern Seminary, certification in special education, and lacks only one class to finish a master's

degree in special education from Texas Women's University in Denton.

Taylor went to work with the Richardson school district as a substitute teacher in special education.

Offered the chance to work with pregnant teens, she jumped at it. She helped the regular

young mothers for six weeks until they could get back to class.

"That's when I got the chance to know what these kids go through," Taylor said. "One girl who was placing her child got depressed and within a year attempted suicide. Now she's in counseling."

Three were eighth-grade cheerleaders. The mother of one of the girls had also had a baby out of wedlock three months earlier.

When the babies came, "friends loved on them, but didn't have to get up with them late at night or get a baby-sitter. They'd be so exhausted. The reality of single motherhood hit them real hard," Taylor said.

Building Confidence

She worked with the girls on their academics and would often stay longer, working on their self-esteem. "For a lot of them it was their first experience (with sex)," Taylor said. She would tell them their lives were just beginning, not over, and that they could still go to college. She said it became a ministry to her even though she couldn't officially witness to them while on the payroll.

While working on the prenatal program for the school district, Taylor went to a Woman's Missionary Union writers conference. She mentioned her experience and was invited by WMU and the Brotherhood Commission to write a booklet on the subject of crisis pregnancy.

"How Could This Happen?" has been released under the World Changers Resources imprint as one of a series of booklets which deal with problems faced by teen-agers.

The booklet offers ways a teenager can help a friend who is pregnant. It explains how to be a good listener, how to help her find appropriate resources and respect her privacy. It encourages the reader to share her faith if the friend isn't a Christian, and to remind her of God's love and forgiveness if she is.

Self-Image

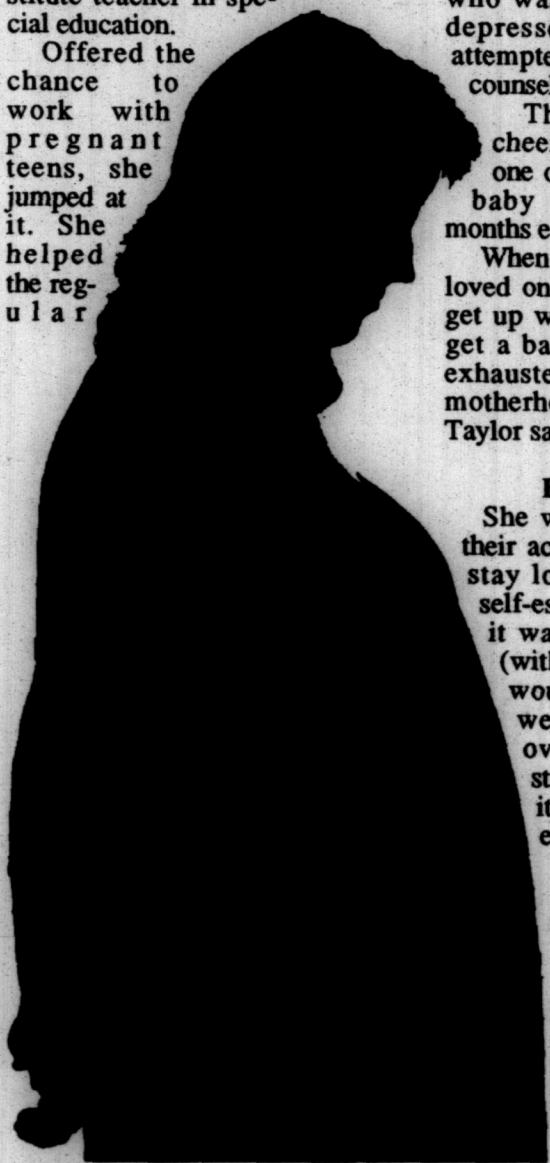
"How we treat the mother is going to be reflected in her nurturing of the child spiritually," Taylor said. "If she feels unloved by the church, she feels rejected, therefore, by God."

If the young mother "is made to feel like a failure and with no chance of her being a 'good person' again, the chances her baby will ever be nurtured spiritually or ever become involved in a church are drastically reduced," she said.

"Most of the girls I worked with were in a school setting and most didn't have Christian friends," Taylor said. "I think that maybe some of the non-Christian friends stuck closer with the pregnant girl than the Christian friends did. A lot of it had to do with the parents not wanting them hanging around any more."

She added, "I wish that every pregnant teen could have a Christian friend. That would make a tremendous difference."

Nicholas, director of Office of Communication, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, prepared this story on assignment from WMU.



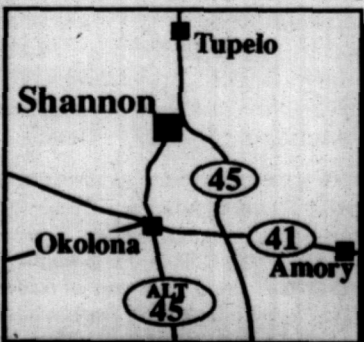
teacher, guiding the homework, teaching parenting, visiting in the hospital, and home schooling the

First, Shannon, fetes 125th

First Church, Shannon (Lee Association) will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 12. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by the morning worship service at 11 a.m., with E.V. May of Livingston, Texas, as the guest speaker.

On Saturday evening prior to the celebration, a fellowship dinner honoring former pastors and ministers of music will be held in the family life center.

In addition, a revival will be conducted Sept. 12-15, beginning each night at 7 p.m. Jim Futral will be the evangelist, with Eddie Wilhite leading the music. Mark Cayson is pastor.



Southerners top survey

Southerners feel strongest about sharing their religious faith with others, according to a recent Barna Research Group survey.

Differences in education, income, geography, and race all correlate in attitudes about evangelism, according to the researchers. A majority of Southerners (56%) share their faith, while Northeasterners barely reached the one-third mark. African-Americans are the strongest evangelizers (62%), well ahead of whites (44%) and Hispanics (32%).

People earning less than \$20,000 per year evangelize much more (54%) than those earning over \$60,000 (34%). Evangelism is more important to Christians who have not attended college (54%) than those who have (37%). An overwhelming 71% of born-again Christians surveyed said they share their faith with others.

The most dramatic difference surfaced in denominational affiliations, where 57% of Protestants felt the need to evangelize and only 31% of Catholics felt the same way.

Looking back...

10 years ago

Mississippi Brotherhood's disaster relief unit rolled into Baytown, Texas, in response to extensive destruction caused by Hurricane Alicia.

20 years ago

Blue Mountain College officials announced a "Year of Celebration" to mark the Baptist school's 100th anniversary on Sept. 12.

30 years ago

Special assistance from Mississippi Baptists has resulted in the births of four new Southern Baptist congregations in the state of Montana.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

What's right about Mississippi Baptists

There are some volatile issues facing our state and our nation today. People are frustrated, alarmed, and disturbed. Some blame "the times" in which we live, others place the blame on national leadership, the SBC controversy, others lay it to whom-ever is in office — from the associational moderator to the president.

True, we've had some peculiar problems. Income in most churches in the state and national conventions are static or declining. We have two splinter groups, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) and the Baptist Conservative Fellowship. Both groups have held separate meetings and both have remained cooperative with the state convention. The Mississippi College-Nobles bruha has shaken many and caused wide repercussions.

The clouds of doubt, despair, and doom, however, can do more than the storms on the horizon. A positive outlook is needed as we face the future. Moreover, we have so much that is "right" about the Convention that we need to

consider. The temptation is to become like the vultures and fly over miles and miles of beautiful terrain to zero in on something dead. We have too much going for us to stoop to this.

The goal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is to glorify God and to spread his kingdom. There is much to be grateful for in this area. New converts and baptisms may be at a record high. Our churches continue to give and go to support the work. Mississippi churches continue to be pace-setters in supporting the Cooperative Program. We led all the old-line states in the SBC with a dollar increase of 4.59% in the first 10 months of this church year. Both fellowship groups are supporting missions, with some churches supporting both the SBC and the CBF mission programs.

In the Mississippi College matter, the trustees and the Convention Board have tried to deal honestly with the matter. Letters have been sent to Lewis Nobles and to MC faculty by Convention leaders, assuring them that we are per-

sonally praying for them during this time. The college has gone through war and famine and it will come through this crisis. The dedicated staff and faculty, plus more than 4,000 students, will continue the mission of the college.

Our missionaries are striving to preach, teach, and heal in 129 countries, the large cities, and in pioneer areas. Mississippi churches, noted for hands-on mission work, helped to construct church buildings from Honduras to Alaska. Adversity, yes; but the opportunities are many. Whining and complaining provide little spiritual nourishment and have never built up the kingdom.

The book of Hebrews gives us leadership for this hour; we have a High Priest over the house of God,

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...."

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering...."

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works...." (Heb. 10:21-24).

Guest Opinion...

Do Something

By J. Greg Martin

This past fall the voters of Arkansas' rural First District elected the state's first female, Blanche Lambert, age 32, to the U.S. House of Representatives. After her historic election, someone stuck a microphone in front of Rep. Lambert and asked her why she wanted to serve in the Congress. Speaking about the need to reform and rejuvenate the House, Ms. Lambert responded, "We can't afford to spend 10 years on a piece of legislation. It's time to move, come together, and do something."

There is a frustration in America that says it's time to do something about Congress, the health care crisis, the deficit, and other social and political problems. The cry all over our land is, "Do something."

The church is not immune from this familiar cry of frustration. Pastors, mission leaders, and committed laymen look at the fields that are white unto harvest and echo, "Do something."

Our country has nearly 172 million lost souls. It's time to do something.

Nearly 60% of Americans do not attend church on the weekend.

It's time to do something.

This year 5,500 Southern Baptist churches did not baptize one person. It's time to do something.

A recent survey among Baptist people reveals that the least important issue on the minds of God's people is missions. It's time to do something.

The Home Mission Board with its 4,868 missionaries, 2,293 chaplains, and 71,740 volunteers (who save the board \$95 million a year) is doing something to reach the masses of lost souls in America. By our churches giving to the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and our faithful prayers for the missionaries, we all are a part of the worthy work of home missions.

We are doing something in Portland, Ore., where Troy and Janice Smith direct the SAFE house. The SAFE (Setting Addicts Free Eternally) house is an inner-city ministry point where 13 drug addicts can live and find a way out of Satan's bondage.

We are doing something in Cambridge, Mass., where the Metropolitan Baptist Church, under the

leadership of pastor Dale Cross, has started over 20 churches in its 28 years of existence.

We are doing something along the Mexican border in Arizona where Ross Hanna has worked for 22 years overseeing three Baptist centers that minister to refugees who have no hope.

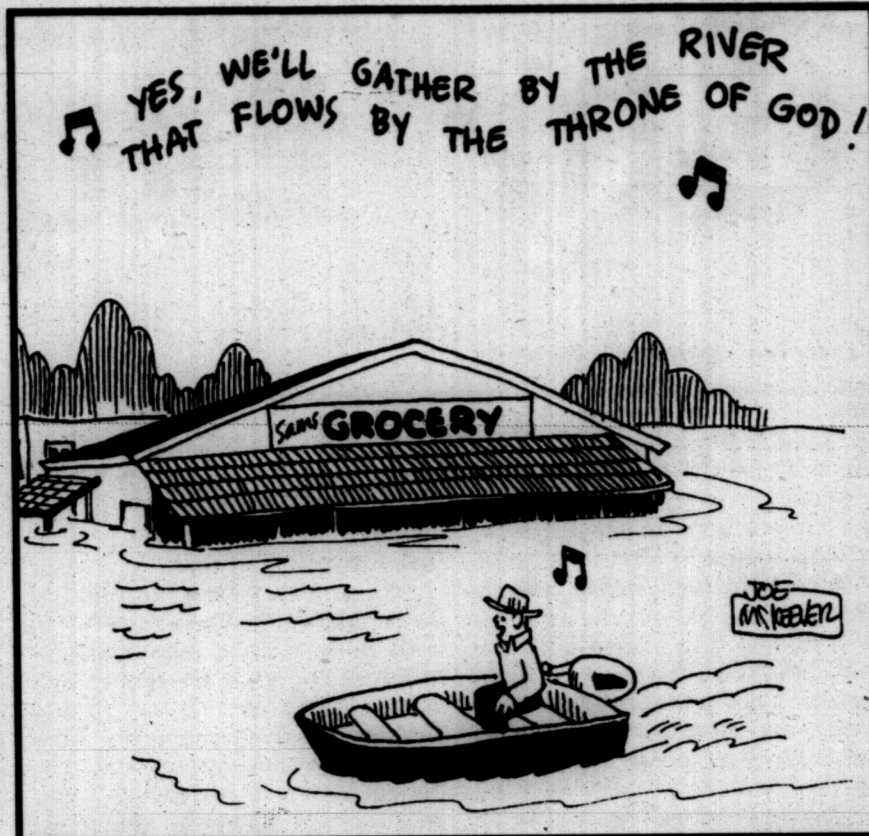
We are doing something in Morgantown, N.C., where Jean White works with two of the 500 ethnic groups that have invaded the Tar Heel state.

We are doing something in Juneau, Alaska, where the Glacier Valley Baptist Church has started a church every year for the last seven years in the capital city that is 90% unchurched.

We are doing something by starting three new churches every day through the work of the Home Mission Board.

We are doing something by making sure that one out of every two churches that is started is either black or ethnic to meet the growing needs of our diverse nation.

We are doing something right here in Mississippi where nine different language groups meet under



THE FRAGMENTS

Just a note

One of God's saints, apparently quite old, took a few minutes to write the staff of the Baptist Record. Her note reveals her troubles but on the second reading the sun comes shining through with such strength, "God keeps his promises" and "God's work must go on." It made our day.

"I thank you for taking time out to write me and get things straightened out. I've got kidney and heart trouble, and my mind comes and goes, and I don't get out very

much. Some people I thought were my friends have turned their back on me, but I am thankful that God doesn't. We can depend upon God to keep his promises to us. Heb. 13:5. Please pray for me and my family. My husband passed away a year ago and I miss him very much. Also, I lost my pastor in death, but God gave us another one. God's work must go on.

"Wishing you and your staff lots of happiness in our wonderful God." — GH

The Filipino connection

They came from a dozen states and several foreign countries. One thing they had in common; the 230 people had served in the Philippines, appointed by the Foreign Mission Board, or grew up there as missionary kids (MKs) or married into a missionary families.

It was probably the largest gathering of any mission outside the country where they served. The group was made up of retired missionaries, short-term missionaries, and volunteers who had served in excess of 1,000 years of missionary service. This lengthy legacy resulted in a lot of hugging, "war" stories, and a hunger for news from the islands. They had worked as church planters, field missionaries, radio-TV, seminary and Bible school leaders, administrators, and workers with the Chinese. Pictures

were displayed of ancient mission meetings, earthquakes, typhoons, etc., going back to the late 1940s.

Grover Tyner, former president of the Baguio seminary, and others had worked for a year to get the group together. Toccoa, Georgia Baptist Assembly was the meeting place. The Philippines continues to be a fruitful mission field. There are 168 missionaries working with 1,578 churches which have 1,779 missions or preaching points. The membership now stands at 84,138 and 13,525 new believers were baptized in 1991.

Mississippi was represented by James and Zelma Foster of Jackson, Bob and Mary Simmons of Meridian, Guy and Lois Henderson of Clinton, and MKs Chris and Patti Ethridge and Jim Watson, all of Jackson.

— home missions.

Martin is Home Mission Board trustee and pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach.

the Southern Baptist umbrella.

Be encouraged to continue the good work you have begun. Pray faithfully and give generously to the only hope America really has

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Restrictive Russian religious bill passed second time

By Marty Croll

MOSCOW (BP) — A bill restricting religious liberty and providing for government support of the Russian Orthodox Church drew closer to becoming law Aug. 27 when the Russian Parliament passed it for the second time.

News stories filtering out of Russia indicated Parliament had crumbled under pressure from world religious and political leaders — including Russian President Boris Yeltsin — and reversed a ban against foreign missionaries. But reports from Moscow contradict that view.

A Yeltsin representative who spoke to Parliament before the revised law was passed said the president's concerns had been only partially addressed. The legal restrictions it places on foreigners are poorly conceived and unlawful, he said.

The representative, Vladimir

Igunin, urged Parliament to hold off on addressing the missionary issue until it adopts a law on the legal status of foreign nationals. Igunin proposed that until then religious organizations should operate under the Helsinki accords on human rights, which Russia has supported since 1976.

Among other things, the accords guarantee the exchange of beliefs across international boundaries. Igunin said religious groups should have the right to choose, appoint, and replace their personnel according to their own standards, and the matter should not be formalized into law.

Igunin accused lawmakers of rushing through a bill that clearly needs more work.

In presenting the changes to Parliament, lawmakers claimed to be answering Yeltsin's concerns that the law violated human rights

and contradicted the Russian constitution.

But they left unchanged a part of the law opposed by Yeltsin that gives the government the right to review charters and activities of religious groups — and petition the court to close them.

"Obviously the statement... contradict(s) the proposed principle for separation of religious associations and organizations from the state," Yeltsin said in an Aug. 4 letter to lawmakers in which he refused to support their 166-1 decision.

Still, the bill requires foreigners carrying out professional religious activities to receive special permission from government agencies. The permit will be reviewed every 12 months to be certain the foreigners are not offending the religious feelings of Russian citizens or compelling citizens either

to change or keep their convictions or membership in religious groups.

Also under the law, native Russians would have to register their church groups with the government, which could shut them down for various reasons. Criminal and administrative penalties could result from, among other things, "coercion to attend or leave religious associations or organizations."

Jay Strack, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, met with a Parliament member and Yeltsin's top advisers in Yeltsin's Kremlin office Aug. 16. He told them many Americans are willing to invest tax dollars to help Russia secure freedom for its people. But he warned that no single act could reverse their interest in the fledgling democracy more than its ignoring religious conscience.

"There's great confusion over our motive" for being in Russia, said Strack. Russia has never known religious freedom, and for that reason is afraid of its by-products.

"You know what they all wanted to talk about? The Waco situation," said Strack. "They wanted to know, 'How do we answer that we'll not have a group of religious zealots and militants (that would require) our army to take over?'"

Strack told the advisers how he opened a window to get some relief from the heat. With the cool air, "everything in the world came in. We talked about (the fact) that there's a price for freedom," he said. He assured them evangelicals have nothing to sell them. "I had to stress our motive over and over again. I had to say, 'We're not trying to make you like America.'"

Croll writes for FMB.

Miss. missionary named to join FMB Europe team

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Mississippian Dan Panter has been named an associate to the area director for Europe. Presently on furlough in Jackson, Panter will serve out of the Foreign Mission Board's Frankfurt, Germany, offices.



The FMB Panter also has announced that Roger Briggs of Marceline, Mo., will serve as associate area director for Europe. Briggs, 51, currently a church starter in Brussels, Belgium, will work out of the board's Richmond, Va., offices.

A native of Pascagoula, Panter, 46, has been a church starter in the former Soviet republic of Belarus since 1991. He will join fellow Pascagoulan Hal Lee, 61, also an associate to the area director, in the Frankfurt offices.

Panter, Lee, and a third associate to be named will work with missionaries in a set of countries in northern Europe, Western Europe, and Eastern Europe (including the former Soviet Union), said Area Director John Floyd. They will divide certain administrative and strategic duties of the area office, he added.

Panter and his wife, the former Libby Wallace of Pearl, were missionaries in the West African nation of Togo for more than 13 years before transferring to Eastern Europe in 1991. Panter received the master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He was pastor of churches in Louisiana and Mississippi before becoming a missionary.

Appointed by the FMB in 1984 with his wife Jeannette, Briggs received the master of divinity degree from Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He was pastor of several churches in Missouri before becoming a missionary.

Church budget planners reminded of staff's needs

Many Mississippi Baptist churches will soon vote on their budgets for the coming year.

A budget is more than numbers — it makes a statement of the values and priorities of a church. The budget speaks about what the church considers to be important. The valued asset of a company is the personnel; the pastor and church staff should be considered valued workers as well.

Inflation will dictate that a pastor's salary will be reduced by 3% if it is not increased by the church. This income reduction can lower morale and add more pressure on staff members and their families.

"Tragically, for many churches, it is not until they are faced

with replacing a pastor or other staff member that the church discovers how inadequate was the previous salary level," is the opening statement in an MBCB salary survey report.

Budget committees should take a new look at health insurance and retirement benefits for pastors and staff. The Lord's servants are not immune from these added costs. The congregation would do well to do what is right with what it has available. Many families are in a belt-tightening stage, as are the families of pastors and staff members.

"The labourer is worthy of his hire," and blessed is the church that considers the pastor's table a vital part of his ministry. — GH

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE The Baptist Record

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BSSB cuts 45 staff positions to reduce corporate overhead

NASHVILLE (BP) — Forty-five positions in non-revenue-producing areas of the Baptist Sunday School Board have been cut to reduce corporate overhead costs, according to President James T. Draper Jr.

Effective Oct. 1, the deletion of 45 jobs will result in the displacement of 29 employees and elimination of 16 vacant positions.

As of Aug. 30, four of the 29 affected employees had been placed in other positions within the board, according to Steve Lawrence, director of the Human Resources Department. Five are taking early retirement.

In addition to efforts to place some of the employees in other BSSB positions, Lawrence said career transition and outplacement assistance, along with severance pay based on years of service, is being provided.

Draper said the study of corporate overhead was initiated in June as part of efforts to keep the board in a competitive position and maintain financial stability. "We seem to have higher overhead costs than other similar companies," he said.

The staff reductions — which include management, professional, and support staff positions — will result in a net savings of \$2.4 million for 1993-94, he said.

Among components, the corporate Market Research Department lost 14 positions, displacing 12 employees, including department director Doug Anderson, a 17-year

employee. Two vacant positions in the department were eliminated.

The Communications Department was reduced by 10 positions, displacing five employees, including Jim Lowry, manager of the public relations services section, a 21-year employee. Five vacant positions in the department were eliminated.

Draper said the corporate overhead study and efficiency studies in revenue-producing areas are "painful but are necessary to enable us to be the best stewards of our resources."

A study of efficient editorial processes in the trade publishing division that produces Broadman & Holman products has resulted in a merger of the two editorial departments, eliminating seven positions, affecting six employees, according to Charles Wilson, vice president for trade and retail markets.

Fine-tuning of the board's structure, organization, and staff will be a continuing process, Draper said. "Learning to operate effectively in the midst of constant change is a challenge facing all institutions committed to providing excellent products and services

that meet customer needs."

The Baptist Sunday School Board currently directs 17 programs of work assigned by the Southern Baptist Convention, with a 1993-94 operating budget of \$233.4 million.

The downsizing of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Communications Department "will have no effect on our relationship with Baptist Press," said BSSB President James T. Draper Jr.

The board, in fact, is naming Linda Lawson as bureau chief of the BSSB's Baptist Press bureau, announced Mike Arrington, who is moving to the position of executive director for corporate affairs in Draper's office, as part of the latest personnel changes at the board to reduce costs.

The Communications Department, reduced in size from 20 positions to 10, will work under the president's office and will report to Arrington.

The board has worked with Baptist Press under a written cooperating agreement since 1966. Baptist Press, the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, is one of four program assignments of the SBC Executive Com-

Hawkins is choice of First, Dallas

DALLAS (BP) — Obviously elated at putting one of their darker periods behind them, members of First Church in Dallas unanimously called O.S. Hawkins to be their new pastor Aug. 29.

The 46-year-old Hawkins, pastor of First Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., since 1978, said he would accept the invitation and assume the responsibility on Oct. 3.



Memphis hospital hosts media

The editors of Baptist papers in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee were guests at an orientation at the Baptist Memorial Health Care System in Memphis. The hospital is affiliated with the three states, and one-third of its trustees are appointed from each state. Joseph Powell (left), president of BMHCS and Steve Reynolds (right), president of Baptist Memorial Hospital, share a moment with Guy Henderson, editor of *The Baptist Record*. The system consists of 16 hospitals, 3,800 beds, and employs over 10,000 people. In Mississippi the Southaven, Batesville, Greenwood, Oxford, New Albany, Ripley, Corinth, Booneville, and Columbus hospitals are affiliated with the institution.

Mississippi assembly, camps host 10,456 during 1993 summer

Nearly 10,500 senior adults, adults, youths, and children participated in events offered during the summer at Mississippi Baptists' assembly and camps. Of those participants, 417 made professions of faith and 717 made other spiritual decisions.

Gulfshore Assembly reported a summer registration of 7,083 with 428 decisions, including 100 professions of faith. Events at Gulfshore included those sponsored by the church program departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and three weeks of Centrifuge, hosted by

the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Camp Garaywa's summer schedule included eight weeks of camps for Girls in Action and Acteens. Mississippi Baptist churches sent 2,350 girls to the camp, of which 417 made a public decision before returning home. Professions of faith totalled 188.

Six weeks of Royal Ambassador camp and two Lad/Dad Weekend Camps attracted 1,023 boys to Central Hills Retreat. A total of 289 decisions were recorded, including 129 professions of faith.

Fire guts Jackson home of Frank, Jane Pollard

JACKSON — An Aug. 24 fire destroyed the home of Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church in Jackson. Neither Pollard nor his wife Jane were at home when a neighbor saw smoke rolling from the Pollards' house and reported it to the fire department shortly after noon.

Most of the roof and inside of the house caved in, but the frame was left standing after the fire, which apparently broke out on the second floor. The cause of the fire was not immediately determined. Arson has been ruled out.

"It's just stuff. We can replace it," Pollard told the Jackson Clari-

on-Ledger. "As long as nobody was involved, it's not a tragedy."

Pollard was told of the fire shortly before conducting a weekly Bible study for 400-plus men at the Jackson church, located across from the state capitol. He finished his message and immediately left for the scene. Zach Hederman, one of the men in attendance, said, "We were told Dr. Pollard's home was on fire and he was on his way there. We bowed our heads and had a special prayer for him right then."

Pollard and his wife temporarily will reside with their son Brent who has a home in Jackson.

Seniors' AutumnFest cancelled

The previously scheduled Senior Adult AutumnFest for Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Oct. 11-15, will not be conducted this fall. The response to the 1992 event did not warrant the repeat of this Senior Adult event.

Alert issued for false material attributed to SBC Exec. Comm.

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi churches should be on the lookout for material on a for-profit telephone poll that falsely claims to have come from the office of SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman.

Chapman denounced the material, which first appeared as a facsimile letter to a number of state Baptist officials, as a "hoax" by someone who "unethically used the title of my office."

Wave Industries of Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, faxed the letters from their office in Canada but attributed the material to "E.C. President" and even included the correct area code and fax number for Chapman's office in Nashville.

The letter received by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Director Bill Causey on Aug. 26 was marked "urgent" and "for immediate distribution." Except for "E.C. President" and Chapman's fax number, there was no indication of who sent the letter.

The letter urged Causey to forward information on the 900-telephone poll to each church in Mississippi for inclusion in all Sunday, Sept. 5 church bulletins. The letter also suggested that churches get local ministerial associations involved in convincing people to vote in the poll.

The letter described a three-day "national opinion poll" on abortion in which callers will be charged 90 cents per call to vote

for or against abortion. The letter states, "Please express confidence in the Lord by spreading the word... and... challenging pro-choice and affiliate groups in your area to an all out showdown."

Bill Lewis of the public relations department at Wave Industries initially said he could not explain why the document did not include any mention of his company's involvement, or why it was falsely attributed to Chapman's office.

"I was responsible for the press release, not the telemarketing," he said.

Lewis quickly composed a letter of apology to Chapman, however, and faxed it to him in Nashville.

In the apology, Lewis pinned the "stunt" on an employee "using aggressive unethical tactics to enlist assistance," and he promised to fire the employee.

"I was informed that somehow our telecommunications department altered the heading on the fax to resemble the heading that was on a list, provided by the SBC, of executive offices and news publications. I will personally fax everyone contacted to apologize and to explain exactly what happened," Lewis' apology stated.

No such fax had been received by Causey as of Aug. 30, four days after the date of the original

letter from Canada.

Chapman had strong words and a warning for Wave Industries.

"While I am unalterably opposed to abortion on demand, I unequivocally reject the attempt of any person to misuse and abuse the good reputation of this office for their own misguided scheme and personal gain of a 900 telephone number. I am consulting our attorney about further legal action," he said.

Word of the fake fax broke when a reporter for *The Baptist Record* noted a number of errors in the letter to Causey and contacted the Executive Committee.

Among the errors were a reference to the "Mississippi S.B.C." and a salutation to "Dear Charlotte."

Paul G. Jones II, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, cautioned Christians to be sure they have the whole story before getting involved in such activities.

"Anyone who has doubts or suspicions and wants more information should contact us at (601) 968-3800. We will be happy to supply any information we have on hand or investigate the matter before anyone gets involved," he said.

CAC can also be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Christians should practice wariness when pondering causes, experts say

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Christians must develop a healthy skepticism to help them sniff out groups who superficially claim religious motives but often are interested only in money, according to the head of Mississippi's Christian Action Commission (CAC).

"Any concerned Christian who encounters an attempt to gain public support for or against an issue would be wise to evaluate the techniques being employed by the group pushing the issue," said Paul G. Jones II.

CAC files are bulging with information on schemes that over the years have reeled in big donations from Christians.

Major examples include the incorrect assertions that atheist Madelyn Murray O'Hair wanted to ban religious broadcasting, that she attempted to remove "In God We Trust" from coins, and that she demanded Bible-reading be prohibited for astronauts circling the Earth.

Some years ago, Jones said, the attorney general of Illinois received over 43,000 letters concerning a bogus campaign to halt a film that purportedly dealt with

In some cases Christians are duped into contributing to causes that are actually anti-Christian.

Michelle Arocha, spokesperson for the pro-life National Right to

Life Committee, in an Aug. 27 Baptist Press article questioned the motives of an upcoming for-profit telephone poll on Americans' attitudes toward abortion — conducted by a foreign company.

"Most of the time they're pro-abortion scams," she said, citing her group's experience with such 900-telephone polls. In calling to register a vote against abortion in such a poll, pro-lifers are unwittingly "giving their money to a pro-abortion cause," she pointed out.

Jones strongly recommended that Christians fully investigate such causes before getting involved, and he said CAC is a good place to start. CAC can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Ask yourself:

1. Will my participation increase my witness for Christ and affirm Biblical positions?
2. Is the sponsor group worthy of my support?
3. Will the group have any impact on policy, or is it just a money-making effort?
4. Will my involvement harm Christian efforts? (Am I "playing into their hands?")

Source: CAC

the sex life of Jesus. No such film existed, Jones pointed out.

In recent times, major U.S. companies and their officers have been accused of devil worship or contributing a portion of company profits to the Church of Satan and other satanic organizations.

None of the rumors had a grain of truth, but Jones said a lot of money was raised.

Christians in Mexico return home after attack by angry Catholic mob

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (EP) — About 30 Mexican Christians, forced to flee their homes after an attack by an angry mob, have returned to San Nicolas de Guadalupe, Mexico, under military escort.

The group took refuge in a Baptist church in a nearby town for more than a month, as their homes

were ransacked and most of their personal belongings stolen.

They were among a group of about 130 Baptists attacked in late June after worship services at a mission church in San Nicolas de Guadalupe. The town is in a Mazahua Indian area in Mexico state, about two hours' drive northwest of Mexico City.

A mob of about 200 Roman Catholics stoned and clubbed the Mexican Baptists while worshipers were eating lunch outdoors, witnesses told Jim Wagoner, a Southern Baptist representative working among the Mazahua people.

About 15 Baptists sustained injuries, mostly lacerations, but none were life-threatening, said Wagoner. The attackers destroyed 11 cars with stones, clubs, and fire.

During the assault the Christians attempted to flee to safety inside the house of church members where the mission congregation meets. The attackers tried to break into the building but failed.

The Baptists, including leaders visiting from other churches in surrounding Mazahua areas, said they did not attempt to fight back.

"They tried to be as submissive as they could and tried to talk with the attackers," Wagoner said, but the assailants wouldn't listen. "They were angry and stirred up."

The throng included the local Catholic priest, some town leaders, and soccer players, several of whom appeared drunk, reported Baptist Press. "The attack apparently was a protest against the presence of evangelicals," said Wagoner.

"Stories of this kind of thing go back as many as 50 years," Wagoner said. "But it always seems to strengthen the (evangelical) churches after something like this happens, because they bond and pull together to better work."

Violence against evangelicals in other parts of Mexico is not new — press reports say it has been strong in the southern state of Chiapas and in the central state of Oaxaca.

CAC's Jones uninjured in accident

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The executive director of Mississippi's Christian Action Commission (CAC) escaped serious injury in a late-evening, head-on collision Aug. 24 on Highway 15 in Webster County.

Paul G. Jones II had spoken earlier at Monroe Association's Church Workers Appreciation Banquet at First Church, Aberdeen, and was returning to Jackson when the accident occurred at about 9:45 p.m. on the two-lane state highway about a half-mile north of Mantee.

Jones was alone in CAC's 1989 Pontiac Bonneville, which was extensively damaged. The other vehicle, a Suzuki Sidekick, was being driven by David Murry III of Houston, Jones said.

Residents of nearby homes heard the collision and contacted authorities after offering aid to the accident victims. Jones said two additional people in the Murry vehicle apparently were not seriously injured, but specific information on them was unavailable at press time.

First Church, Jackson, hosts college conference

A conference for all college students, Sept. 24-25, in Jackson, will feature Dan Yearly and Dennis Swanberg, and will conclude with a concert by Wayne Watson.

Taking place at First Church, Jackson, the conference opens at 7:41 p.m., Friday evening. The registration tables open at 4 p.m.

Keynote speaker that evening will be Dan Yearly, pastor of North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz. Yearly will also present a missions challenge the next morning.

Dennis Swanberg, pastor of First Church, West Monroe, La., will speak on Saturday afternoon during a presentation of the 1994 summer missions program.

Larry Black, minister of music at First Church, Jackson, will coordinate music for the weekend.

The program concludes on Saturday evening at 7 p.m. with the Wayne Watson concert. Watson, a

five-time Dove Award winner and a Grammy nominee, has songs to his credit such as "Watercolour Ponies," "Friend of a Wounded Heart," and "Home Free."

The only cost item for the conference is the concert, which is \$5. The concert is co-sponsored by the Department of Student Work and First Church, Jackson. Tickets are available at the Department of Student Work at the Baptist Building, Maranatha Book Stores, the Music Box (Jackson), and First Church, Jackson.

Other musical guests during the conference include Sheldon Gooch of Jackson; Michael Passons, a professional musician based in Nashville and formerly of Jackson; and the Rust College Choir. Drama team Cross Section of Mississippi College also will perform.

Part of the Saturday morning and afternoon program consists of seminars. A total of 60 topics, chosen by college students, include "Finding Forgiveness — God's and Yours," "Commitments — Making and Keeping Them," and "Reaching People You Love with the Gospel."



Swanberg



Watson



Yearly

Mississippi-Honduras partnership will be a reality for 1994

The Honduras-Mississippi Baptist Partnership is on its way to being a reality. Last week, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee approved start-up funds of up to \$54,000 for the partnership.

This money will be repaid from income generated by the participants. Cost per volunteer will be about \$625. This will pay for travel, local expenses, insurance, and will help cover such costs as equipment, vehicles, and supplies for the Mississippi House in Tegucigalpa.

Honduras Baptists have asked in 1994 for 107 teams, according to the Mississippi Baptist Partnership Office which is handling the project.

The projects include 31 med-

ical brigades, 36 construction, 29 evangelistic, five theological education, and six social ministry and education projects. The medical brigades call for 25 persons each; the others up to a dozen members.

The evangelistic projects call for a preacher, a music leader, and witnesses.

Details of the various projects are being formulated now. The Mississippi Baptist agricultural, educational, construction, and medical-dental fellowships are working on enlistment. However, these projects are open to all Mississippi Baptists.

For details on participation, contact Bill Hardy at the Partnership Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205, phone 968-3800.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



LEH, India (BP) — Jennifer Garrett, left, a registered nurse from Madison, checks a patient's blood pressure at a free clinic in northern India's Himalayan Mountains, one of several set up this summer by Southern Baptist volunteers. The doctors, nurses, and assistants worked in extremely remote areas never before touched by the gospel. (Photo by Robert Siddens)

Medical/dental vols reach remote people

LEH, India (BP) — Word spread fast among the Ladakhi people in the Zaskar Valley of northern India's Himalayan Mountains: Volunteers were coming with free medicine.

That's rare in Ladakh. Snow keeps them locked in for nine months out of the year. The elevation extends from 12,000 to 18,000 feet.

"You could go about five steps and you'd have to stop," said team leader Jimmy Huffman. Huffman is a North Carolina Baptist Men's associate director who led one group of medical/dental volunteers to hike 80 miles and set up clinics.

A second team took a bus to Ladakhi communities accessible by road for the medical/dental outreach.

The purpose was to share the gospel in an area that had never been touched by Christianity, Huffman said. His team had three doctors and two nurses from the United States.

"It was stressful," he recalled. "I don't think any of us were prepared for the elevation."

Bennie Norton led the bus group. He's a dentist and member of First Church in Smyrna, Ga.

His group stopped in the city of Padam and in several villages to treat approximately 2,000 people. It was his second medical/dental trip to Ladakh following the initial project last summer.

One local teacher brought in 22 of his students. The man said he had been searching for the true God and the true religion. Norton helped with their dental problems and invited the group to see a video about Jesus.

Communication was difficult. Translation went from English to volunteers who were Indian nationals. They had to use a local Buddhist who knew both dialects.

Norton left the teacher with

some tracts, and the man was grateful.

"If he does become a Christian, he'll be a tremendous witness in that area," Norton said.

Both teams went at the request of Cooperative Services International, a humanitarian aid organization. The Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship and the Brotherhood Commission of Memphis, Tenn., recruited the volunteers.

"Doctors, dentists, and nurses can get into areas a lot of times where evangelists can't go," said Bob McEachern, associate director of volunteer missions at the Foreign Mission Board. Last year about 900 medical professionals went on volunteer trips like the India teams. Most pay their own expenses.

"The situation (in northern India) was rather primitive," McEachern said. "The place they went was one of the remotest in the world."

Walter Sandusky got ready for the trip by hiking in the mountains. He's a 69-year-old dentist from Memphis.

"We felt like we were exploring," he said. "These are people who have never come out of this valley."

He extracted a tooth from one woman who later returned to their worship service. She interrupted the sermon and the interpreter explained her comment.

"We don't know the Messiah up here," she said. "But from what you're saying, he was good. He healed people. And that's what you've done for us."

Ed Young hopes to go back one day. He's an internist from Ingleside Church in Macon, Ga. One of his team members placed a wooden cross along a pass to a major trade center.

"They'll see that cross and remember us," Young said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to go back and build on that."



Letters to the editor



Pledges to pray

Editor:

As a pastor of a cooperating Mississippi Baptist church, I am deeply concerned about the problems we face. As a result of the conflict surrounding the closing of Clarke College and now the additional problems at Mississippi College we are, in my opinion, suffering from a great crisis which questions our integrity. Mississippi Baptists no longer know who to trust. What do we tell Mississippi Baptists and Mississippians in general about our leadership both elected and employed? The most common statement made to me is simply, "We need to clean house." Maybe so, but far be it from me to make that kind of decision.

It would be easy for some of us to "gloat" over the problems of the person responsible for closing the school we dearly loved, but in my heart I am saddened by the whole affair. Instead of "rejoicing in iniquity" I must bow my head in prayer for all involved and all those affected by the whole incident. Whether we like it or not this affects us all and is our problem. It is a reflection on all Mississippi Baptists, and we are all a part of the problem and a part of the solution.

I believe we need to humbly and sincerely pray like never before for healing in our Convention. I know this is difficult when we are not yet sure of the extent of the damage, but we must pray and trust God Almighty to work his judgment, his correction, and his grace in the whole episode. We may not agree with the decisions of the leadership, but as children of God and a part of his family we must stand together in prayer. As God-loving and God-fearing Baptists, may we unite our hearts in prayer for his will to be done and for our Convention to stand united for the cause of Christ.

I pledge to pray daily for Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Nobles and their family; Dr. Rory Lee and all the Mississippi College faculty and staff; the board of trustees of Mississippi College; Bill Causey and all Convention Board employees; Jim Futral and the Executive Committee; P.J. Scott and the Convention Board members. I also pledge to pray for the pastors of the churches in our great Convention. May God grant you the wisdom to lead your church during these difficult days.

Nelson Crozier, pastor
First Church of Sharon
Laurel

Wonders about AB

Editor:

I am writing in regard to Thomas E. Miller's article on page 4 of the July 29 issue of the Baptist Record.

Several months ago I was shocked to read from the American Family Journal that the Southern Baptist Annuity Board is investing millions of dollars with the four major networks and is even invest-

ed with Multimedia which owns the Donahue Show.

My first action was to take this matter to the Baptist Men's meeting in my church to which I found all present to be very mildly concerned. My next endeavor was to call the Annuity Board and was told that only by written request could I obtain a portfolio of where and how much is invested.

I wrote immediately, only to receive a form letter verbatim to Miller's letter mentioned above. I wrote another letter simply asking for a yes or no answer to the truth of the article in the American Family Journal. That letter was dated June 4, and I have had no response.

I am a born-again believer who believes in tithing to the church in which I am being spiritually fed and giving love offerings above the tithe to God's kingdom work according to how God has blessed me. That puts me in a dilemma when I consider that a percentage of every dollar that I return to God is going to support Satan's main forces in this world.

Miller's form letter states that liquor, tobacco, gambling, and pornography are recognized as incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of the Annuity Board. Prior to five years ago before I quit watching TV or even having a functional TV set in my home, I never turned the monster on that I did not see all the above and a constant put down of the Christian church and family values.

My concern is, are there any other Southern Baptist Christians who see this as I do and are willing to do whatever is necessary to put a stop to this fiasco? I am the Christian Action Chairman for my church and am fully persuaded that Christian action should be taken on this matter.

If we ever expect to have Christian influence on this world, then surely we must police our ranks first.

Jim Whitehead
Philadelphia

Editor's Note: The Annuity Board, SBC, has repeatedly stated its opposition to liquor, gambling, and pornography. The AB seeks to influence the companies and stockholders prior to selling such stock holdings. No Cooperative Program money is given to the Annuity Board.

Music is witness

Editor:

This letter is in response to "Praise for Morton" and "Agrees with Morton" in the Baptist Record dated Aug. 12.

I am a 37-year-old who was born into a Christian family. I grew up with and witnessed the "soft" music in an atmosphere of "humility" (so referred to in the two articles) while my father led music as a bi-vocational minister of music for over 20 years in Southern Baptist churches.

I still thoroughly enjoy gospel music, hymns sung by the congre-

gation, and "soft" organ and piano offertories, but today I add to my listening enjoyment the music of Truth, Wayne Watson, Al Denson, Larnelle Harris, Sandi Patti, 4 Him, Steve Camp, Steve Green, First Call, Glad, Billy & Sarah Gaines, Michael English, and many, many others. The words and music of these contemporary artists is a gift from God. The music has witnessed to me ever since I first saw Truth for the first time in the '70s.

I think that the problem that Dan Morton and my two sisters in Christ may have with the "new, loud" music is a matter of tradition. Tradition always dictates that one not deviate from a set pattern or way of doing something. If one hears "soft" music for the greater part of his/her life, it will be hard for him/her to adapt to anything else.

Many thousands of young people have been witnessed to and won to Christ through this medium of contemporary Christian music. One thing I am trying to grasp more and more each day is to never limit God in what he can do and however he wishes to do it. God is working through these artists as they sing and give personal testimony to what God has done in their lives.

I would ask that my brother and sisters in Christ obtain some of the lyrics to these aforementioned Christian recording artists and read some of them so that they can see for themselves that these lyrics provide a Christian witness. They may be surprised in the strongly biblically-based lyrics they will find.

Jay C. Michael
Seminary student
New Orleans

Praise for Clayton

Editor:

I just finished reading the article "Alcohol: Generations of silence from church stymies healing." "Every 22 minutes, someone dies on our nation's highways because of drunken driving." Now the only voice speaking out and getting results is MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). When approached about a donation for the BETA House for Teenagers coming off drugs sponsored by the Altrusa Club of Tupelo, a leading stockholder in one of the beer companies said that they would rather not place any emphasis on rehabilitation at this time because sales were down due to Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. Now the churches need to join with the mothers in a clear voice!

And while the church is speaking out on alcohol, it also needs to speak out on the subject of divorce. We need to stress prevention by our preachers giving us at least one sermon a year on the Scripture, "Be ye not unequally yoked together." We see too many fine Christians handicapped by marrying non-believers. But while this is happening, our churches are silent — the pastors are not leading us, not preparing our young people

to be alert to the Scripture that teaches a Christian should not marry a non-Christian.

Thanks to Lynn P. Clayton for speaking out on the subject of alcohol in his position as editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message. He is right on target when he says, "Abstinence is still a good idea — the best idea — the most logical idea. And getting more that way every day." This was printed on the editorial page of the July 22 issue of our Baptist Record. Thanks to you for calling it to our attention.

Carolyn E. Jones
Greenwood

Messages in song

Editor:

I agree with Morton's letter in your paper July 15, "Lower the volume."

Each song has a message worth hearing. Even if there are only a few people singing let them be heard.

I think music in the sanctuary — piano, organ, or whatever — should be glorifying to God, not just to be heard.

I have heard music in other places much too loud for me.

Sarah Barnett
Liberty

Could we apologize?

Editor:

I am very distressed at the attitude Southern Baptists have had concerning our president and vice president. I agree with your editorial — we have treated these two men like dirt (my term). Who are we to judge their Christianity? In my opinion, those who have chosen to cast the stones are so biblically incorrect. Billy Graham wrote that he thinks Bill Clinton will make a better president than most people think he will. Also he pointed out we should pray (Bible says so) for our leaders.

Could we as Mississippi Baptists send a note of apology to the president and vice president? This is, from my viewpoint, one of the biggest sins we as a Convention have ever committed.

In our church for over 30 years we read in unison the church covenant, every fifth Sunday when we observe the Lord's Supper. We skipped a few years, but now have a copy inside the cover of our new hymnals. Some members did not know we even had one! We desperately need our folks to know Baptist doctrine. When I came along, we learned this in B.Y.P.U. and later in Training Union. Somewhere along the line, this was replaced with various other topics.

Maudaline Pepper
Greenville

Editor's Note: The BAPTIST RECORD would certainly urge our people to pray for our president. This does not mean we approve his stand on abortion or homosexuality.

Tried to warn us

Editor:

For 15 months, beginning in October 1981 and continuing to the Mississippi Baptist Convention of 1982, I tried diligently to advise the trustees of Mississippi College, the Education Committee, the leadership of our Convention, and the Convention membership that there was dishonesty and a subversion of the Baptist philosophy at Mississippi College. I did not ask for you to believe me, but just an investigation.

Although the messengers to the convention were receptive, the college and Convention leadership were able to block my efforts. Even the Baptist Record refused to print my letters to the editor.

Now, MC has two black eyes: (1) NCAA investigation and (2) the image of embezzlement. I am told MC has also lost \$3 million.

The purpose of this letter is not to remind you that I was right. The purpose of this letter is to hopefully begin a process of redirection for MC. The purpose of MC is to provide a quality education primarily for our Baptist young people and provide them with further teaching and Christian guidance after they have left home.

Should the task of redirecting MC be left in the hands of the present trustees? Some of those trustees were the same men who were told of the problems 12 years ago and refused to act. Should these men continue to serve as trustees? Have they now acted only to protect themselves? What are the responsibilities of the trustees to MC and the Convention for what has happened? Should the president of MC have any influence on the trustee selection process?

One other question! Should the Baptist Record provide information to Mississippi Baptists concerning unpleasant problems of leadership at our colleges and in the Convention when they arise?

Charles R. Wilbanks Sr.
Corinth

Editor's Note: Wilbanks served for several years on the faculty of MC's School of Law. Yes, the BAPTIST RECORD seeks to publish all the news, pleasant and unpleasant.

Alexander Memorial marks 50th

Alexander Memorial Church, Hollandale, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 12 with a homecoming.

The church is trying to locate the following former pastors: C.D. Cannady, 1954-56; James E. Eastes, 1961-62; James E. Hathcock, 1969. If you know of the whereabouts of these men, please contact Lyda Tavenner, P.O. Box 106, Avon, MS 38723.

capsules

Thursday, September 2, 1993

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LEE NAMED DIRECTOR OF SEMINARY PROGRAM: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Andrew Lee has been named director of Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry, a division of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Lee, a native of Hong Kong, is on the ministerial staff of Trust in God Baptist Church in New York City. He has served on the faculty at NEBSM since 1989 and also has taught at New York School of the Bible. He holds degrees from Nyack (N.Y.) College, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, and Baylor University, Waco. NEBSM offers classes leading toward the M.Div. or M.A. degree from Southern Seminary. It conducts classes in New York, Northboro, Mass., Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Silver Spring, Md.

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT GROUP BUYS BENSON: GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (EP) — Benson Music Group, the second largest record company and music publishing concern in the world, has been acquired by the Music Entertainment Group (MEG). MEG was formed by Wes Farrell in partnership with an investment firm in 1992 to acquire music-related assets. In acquiring Benson, Farrell states that he believes his company can facilitate "a spectacular expansion of the company's growth and prospects." Under the purchase agreement, Zondervan, the previous owner of Benson, will continue to distribute Benson's products to the Christian bookstore market. Founded in 1902 by John T. Benson, Benson Music Group is one of the oldest gospel music companies in the world. Among its accomplishments are four platinum records, 11 gold records, 12 Grammy Awards, and more than 70 Dove Awards.

NEA ESCALATES WAR ON MIDDLE AMERICA: FOREST, Va. (CAN) — "The National Endowment for the Arts and the Clinton Administration continue to show nothing but contempt for people of traditional values and American taxpayers," said Christian Action Network President Martin Mawyer, commenting on the NEA's decision to approve funding for three homosexual film festivals. "This is nothing but a political payback to the homosexual community and is a direct slap in the face of American taxpayers who should never have to pay for this, much less pay for it when their taxes are being raised in times of massive deficits." Last November, Mawyer praised then-NEA Chairwoman Anne-Imelda Radice, who rejected funding for the Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, the New Festival in New York, and the Gay and Lesbian Media Coalition in Los Angeles. "Americans do not pay taxes to fund works which 'alternate a gay couple with Christ' or show 'gay lovers being tarred and feathered with molasses and cotton batting.' The Pittsburgh festival also featured works described as a 'transvestite orgy,' 'Intimate... lesbian lovers,' and a film entitled 'Why I Masturbate.' These actions only contribute to greater deficits and cultural malaise," Mawyer said. "These works are offensive and the whole concept of forcing taxpayers to fund them is a mindless abuse of their hard-earned tax money. President Clinton and Congress have proven again they are at odds with the financial and social concerns of American taxpayers. If the NEA means to wage war against American taxpayers and their values, it is war they will get," Mawyer said.

Parks cites different approaches, defends CBF against accusers

By Mark Wingfield

DANVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship ultimately has the same missions goal as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board but will pursue a different way of accomplishing it, Keith Parks said Aug. 21 in Danville, Ky.

"The bottom line is we're all trying to spread the gospel, to bring people to know Jesus Christ," said Parks, former FMB president and current coordinator of the Fellowship's missions program. "The goal is the same. The way we go about it is different."

Parks was the featured speaker at the summer meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, held at Lexington Avenue Church in Danville. The 250 people attending the one-day gathering represented the largest crowd ever to attend a Kentucky Fellowship meeting, said Carolyn Hale, the group's communications coordinator. The Kentucky Fellowship is a state chapter of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Parks left the FMB last year, citing "philosophical differences" with trustees. Their disagreement centered in part on support for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The FMB cut funding for the school, which they accused of being liberal. The Fellowship later began supporting it.

Beyond Ruschlikon, Parks cited other differences between the FMB and the Fellowship:

— **Focus on unreached people groups.** Aside from the Fellowship's 20-member mission force in Europe, which launched its new missions program, the Fellowship will concentrate on what missiologists call "World A," Parks said. World A is a region where about one-fourth of the world's population lives, predominantly people, who never have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Only about 1,000 of the world's missionaries work in World A, he noted.

Despite some emphasis on World A, the FMB "is predominantly working in parts of the world that have the most missionaries, the most churches, and the most money," he alleged.

— **Missionary assignments.**

The FMB assigns missionaries to nations, Parks explained. If a nation closes its doors to missionaries, FMB missionaries stop working with that people group until the country reopens, he said.

The Fellowship assigns missionaries to people groups, not nations, he added. This allows missionaries to work across geographic boundaries, both with nationals and expatriates, regardless of whether a country is open or closed. For example, twice as many Albanians live outside Albania as live inside it, he pointed out.

— **One mission board.** While the FMB and its domestic counterpart, the Home Mission Board, separate missions inside and outside the United States, the Fellowship draws no such distinction, Parks said. "We're not dividing the world. We think that's long since passed to divide the world between home and foreign missions."

— **Missionary grouping.** The FMB places missionaries near each other, so they can be organized into administrative groups known as missions. The Fellowship, though, "plans to scatter people and let them communicate electronically," Parks said.

— **No institutions.** Institutions such as hospitals and seminaries have been a mainstay of FMB programs. But aside from its support for the Ruschlikon seminary, the Fellowship has no plans to start institutions, Parks said.

— **Divorcees and women.** While the FMB opposes appointing divorced individuals as missionaries and won't appoint women to certain roles, the Fellowship won't be so restrictive, he said.

Women will be considered for more roles, and divorcees will be considered on a case-by-case basis, Parks said. "That doesn't mean

everybody who's divorced is qualified to be a missionary, but it doesn't mean they automatically aren't qualified either."

Parks also defended the Fellowship against what he said are the four most common accusations against it: that the Fellowship is theologically liberal, pro-abortion, pro-homosexual, and doesn't believe in public prayer.

"All four are blatant lies," he declared.

Parks defended his theological orthodoxy. During his difficulties with FMB trustees, he recalled, he challenged them to cite any area where he was out of line theologically. "Not a one of them ever tried," he said. "They know, and I know, that there's no deviation in my teaching from sound biblical teaching."

Another common criticism of the Fellowship is that the new organization is "tearing down the Cooperative Program," Parks said.

To refute this argument, Parks cited a study, conducted by Lloyd Elder of Belmont University, on Cooperative Program giving in 1991. "The coordinating council members of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship — their churches — give a higher percentage to the Cooperative Program than any group among Southern Baptist leaders — Executive Committee, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board — except Woman's Missionary Union's executive board."

Parks said the Fellowship currently employs 22 missionaries and plans to approve six more in September. These will be the first "young, career missionaries" appointed by the Fellowship, he said.

Wingfield is news director for Kentucky's WESTERN RECORDER.

62-year-old field consultant — Missionary Joanne LaGette dies in head-on car collision

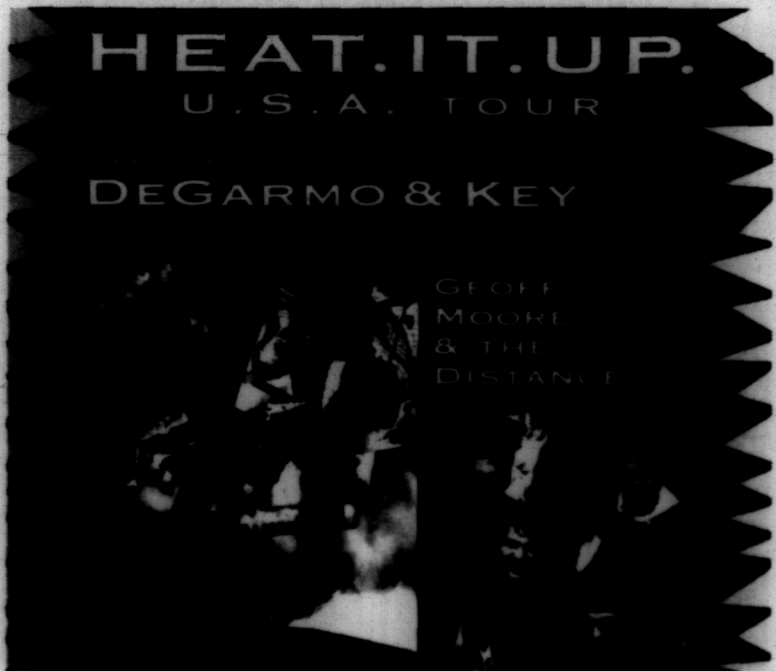
GETTYSBURG, Pa. (BP) — A car accident claimed the life of veteran Southern Baptist home missionary Joanne LaGette Aug. 22 as she was driving to a newly formed mission's second meeting. Funeral services were held Aug. 26 in South Carolina.

LaGette was three miles from

Gettysburg, Pa., when a car attempted to pass, hitting LaGette's vehicle head-on. She was pronounced dead at the scene by Adams County Coroner Pat Linbach.

The 62-year-old LaGette was on her way to Fairfield Mission for its Sunday morning service. She had assisted the Central Chapel, Mont Alto, Pa., in starting the mission which held its inaugural service one week earlier.

LaGette, a home missionary since 1979, had been church extension field consultant for Keystone and South Jersey Baptist associations since 1990. Prior to serving in the Northeast, she was a church extension/church starter strategist for the Texas and Michigan Conventions. She had also worked in New York, California, and South Carolina.



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Baptist influence felt in Cobb County, Ga.'s, anti-gay policy

ATLANTA (ABP) — Buoyed by support from its heavily Baptist population, Cobb County, northwest of Atlanta, apparently has become the first county in America officially to condemn homosexuality as a lifestyle.

County commissioners approved a resolution that describes homosexuality as "incompatible with the standards to which this community subscribes." In the resolution, approved Aug. 10 by a vote of 3-1, the county government also pledged "not to fund those activities which seek to contravene these existing community standards."

Two weeks later, commissioners made good on that pledge, voting 5-0 Aug. 24 to cut all funding for the arts in the county — including a theatre company whose play sparked the initial confrontation.

The much-publicized dispute has pitted Cobb's gays and arts supporters against "pro-family" residents, many of whom were attracted to the county's suburban communities because of the area's conservative reputation.

Almost a fourth of Cobb's residents are members of Southern Baptist churches (98,517 or 22%), much higher than the national average. Observers say the conservative character of Cobb County made passage of the resolution more likely than in other parts of Atlanta.

"We are more homogeneous than Metro Atlanta might be on this issue," acknowledged Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church, the largest Baptist church in the county. Members of the church as well as other Christians in the area worked to pass the res-

olution, Price said, adding that it was spawned by a desire to protect family values, not by an anti-gay sentiment.

However, not all residents — and not all Baptists — in Cobb County favor the resolution and arts defunding. In fact, a survey published by the Atlanta Constitution Aug. 24 found that only 33% of Cobb residents felt the resolution against the gay lifestyle accurately represents community standards. Only 26% said arts funding should be limited to groups that uphold family values.

Tommy McDearis, pastor of Northside Drive Church, is one Cobb County resident who thinks the commission's action was ill-advised.

"I don't see that there is any place in government to attack human beings in an open way like that," he said. "When you attack another human being ... without knowing how they feel, there is no grace in that."

The play that sparked the dispute does not depict gay lifestyles but makes a reference to homosexuality while a married couple discusses the AIDS-related death of the wife's gay brother. The couple voice their disdain for the gay lifestyle but conclude if their own son was gay they "would love him all the same."

A Cobb County couple who saw the play wrote commissioners to protest the playhouse, Theatre in the Square, which was scheduled to receive \$41,000 in county funding this year. Rather than singling out Theatre in the Square for punitive action, which some experts said would be unconstitutional, commissioners cut funding for all nine community-funded

arts groups.

Price said he and other community leaders already have begun a campaign to raise \$100,000 from local businesses to support local arts groups that uphold family values. "I want to show that Christians are for the arts," he explained. "We're not anti-arts."

Names in the News

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will be the featured speaker during the Gulf Coast Association's Missions and Evangelism Day set for Sept. 27. Lewis will speak during a luncheon at First Church, Gulfport, and during a 7 p.m. rally at Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport. Ed Keyes from Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., will lead the music during the rally. Selective conferences offering laypeople practical help in evangelism begin at 6 p.m. at Grace Memorial Church. To make reservations for the luncheon or for more information, call (601) 832-4311.



Lewis

Lecil L. Lee was awarded the honor of "Churchman of the Year" by vote of the membership of First Church, Yazoo City, during its homecoming celebration Aug. 22. Lee, a member since 1963, serves on the deacons' council, as usher, sixth grade Sunday School teacher, and member or chair of numerous church committees, as well as past director of Baptist Men. He received a framed certificate. In the same service, tribute was paid with a resolution to the late Eugene H. Turner, noting the contributions he made during 35 years of membership.

Staff Changes

Friendship Church, Grenada, has called Ken Dawson of that city as associate pastor. He is a native of Phenix City, Ala., and a graduate of Jacksonville State University and Mid-America Seminary. He previously served First Church, Hughes, Ark.

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Revival Dates

Harmontown (Lafayette): Sept. 12-16; Sunday, regular morning service and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Frank Kemper, Adamsville, Tenn., evangelist; Allen Geyer, Memphis, music; Barry Littlefield, pastor.

Poplar Flat, Louisville: Sept. 5-10; 7 p.m. nightly; Jackie Cooke, Kokomo, evangelist; Leon Merritt, Louisville, music; Dwayne Kelly, pastor.

Midway, Moss Point: Sept. 5-12; Tues.-Fri., 10:30 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Tommy Phelps, evangelist; Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Mercer, music; Ralph Young, pastor.

Fellowship, Taylorsville: Sept. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Jordan, Terry, evangelist; Jim Hill, Taylorsville, music; Glen Smith, pastor.

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: Sept. 12-17; 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Dodds, Kosciusko, evangelist; John and Lisa McDaniel, Memphis, music; Bill Hudson, pastor.

Calvary, Petal (Lebanon): Sept. 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Jenkins, Bogalusa, La., evangelist; R.L. Hullum, Petal, music; Phil T. Harris, pastor.

Hinds-Madison will host fall literacy workshops

A workshop is planned for those who want to help someone read better. It comes in two forms — to help someone who speaks English, and to help someone who speaks another language.

Each workshop will be led by Home Mission Board-trained leaders and will take place at the Hinds-Madison Association office, 6530 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson. Pre-register by calling (601) 362-8676.

The literacy workshop to learn to help English-speakers will be on Sept. 10-11 and Sept. 17-18; Fridays, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost of materials is \$7.

The literacy workshop to learn to help someone who speaks another language will be Oct. 1-2

and Oct. 8-9; Fridays, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost of materials is \$12.50.

Revival Results

Mt. Zion, Brookhaven: July 25-28; Dennis Johnsey, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; J.M. Wood, Jackson, music; nine professions of faith; Randy Lewman, pastor.

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Eastern Europe doesn't need "Lone Ranger" evangelists, says Lotz

BERLIN, Germany (EP) — Baptist World Alliance (BWA) General Secretary Denton Lotz says his organization is concerned by "Lone Ranger" evangelists and sectarian and heretical types that are invading Eastern Europe.

"While most of the more than 1,000 parachurch-church organizations operating in Eastern Europe have the aim of leading men and women to faith in Jesus Christ, when it comes to methodology, ecclesiology, doctrines, and finances, Baptists — along with other Christian churches — are concerned," says Lotz.

"We are concerned about the integrity of the gospel and authentic and meaningful evangelism," he said to a gathering of Baptist leaders.

Lotz describes "Lone Ranger" evangelists as "individuals who feel called to ministry in Eastern Europe, start their own evangelis-

tic associations, hire a translator, visit churches, and begin to preach wherever they can gain access.

"No cooperation is possible" with groups that are either "sub-Christian, non-Christian, or heretical," Lotz warned. "They mislead people and preach another gospel."

Lotz said when overseas organizations do not work through national structures but choose outstanding churches, pastors, and friends as their channel for financial and spiritual aid, they create disparity among pastors.

"One pastor may end up with two cars and another none." All this leads to "a lack of a national strategy for evangelism and mission" because "everyone does what is right in his or her own eyes."

"Only in the collective sacrifice to the greater good of the country will a national strategy be developed," said Lotz.

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Just for the Record



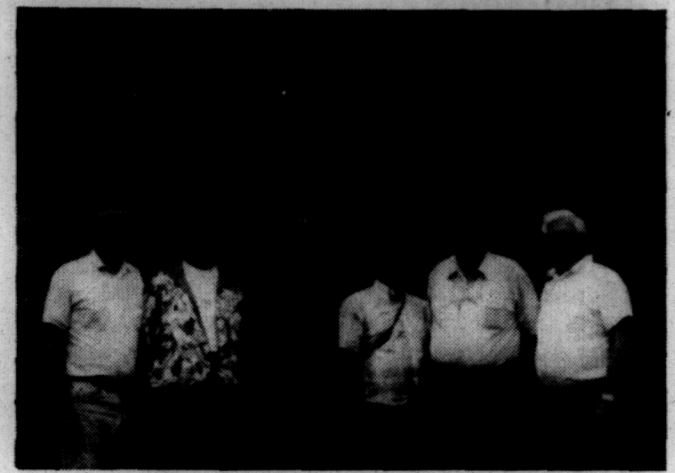
Acteens from Meadowood Church, Amory, went to Concord, N.H. for 12 days this summer to conduct Backyard Bible Clubs and work in Vacation Bible Schools at Hillside Baptist Church there. They were (left to right): Samantha Morgan, Tracy Duke, Jennifer Rodabough, Branna Coker, Kristi Barrett, Emily Coker, and Marlane Rodabough.



Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, recently held a ground breaking ceremony for a new building. The \$400,000 project will include a new sanctuary, classrooms, furnishings, and parking lot. Those who participated in the ceremony, including G.W. Smith, interim pastor, foreground, were (left to right): Leisa Gill, Carolyn Hitchinson, Annette Sasser, Danny Roberts, Percy Rutledge, building committee chairman, Andy Leggett, Rodney King, builder, and Tommy Sasser.



Centreville Church, Centreville, recently held a ground breaking ceremony for its new fellowship hall, kitchen, offices, and library/conference room. Also, a renovation on the sanctuary will form a new music suite. Those who took part in the ceremony were, left to right: Lowell Lucas, minister of youth; Marlin Reid, chairman of trustees; Brock-Slabach, building committee chairman; Don Stewart, interim pastor; Jesse Ard, chairman of deacons; O.L. Kirby, deacon emeritus; Ronnie Irwin, minister of music and education; Johnny Waycaster, architect; Paul Jackson Sr., contractor.



The Tishomingo Association voted last October to participate in the Alaska partnership for the next three years, and was assigned the Salcha Baptist Church near Fairbanks. In July, a team of six helped remodel the Salcha auditorium. They were, left to right: Tommy Purvis, pastor of Calvary Church; his wife, Carla Purvis, Calvary Church; Mike Curtis, luka; Hugh Van Presley, luka; Roger S. Dorsett, Tishomingo director of missions; and Alvis Murrah, luka. The three from luka were sponsored by their Brotherhood.

Homecomings

Pilgrim's Rest, Batesville: Sept. 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner in fellowship hall, 12:30; no night service; George D. (Billy) Credille, speaker and pastor.

Friendship East, Charleston: Sept. 12; worship, 11 a.m.; pot luck dinner, noon; J.G. Thomas, pastor.

North Morton, Morton: Sept. 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner on grounds, noon; afternoon singing; Roy Clark, pastor.



Tuscumbia Church, Booneville, recently gathered to break ground for a new education facility and sanctuary with a seating capacity of 250. The old sanctuary will be renovated to house a fellowship area. Ben Griffin is pastor.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Missionary News

Kenneth and Ruth Bailey, missionaries to Bolivia, are in the States (address: 704 Ponderosa Dr., Starkville, MS 39759). He is a native of Vardaman, and she is the former Ruth Holder of Houston.

Donald and Teresa Bolls, missionaries to the Niger Republic, are in the States (address: 1944 S. McRaven Rd., Jackson, MS

39209). He is a native of Jackson. Teresa is from New Mexico.

Roddy and Caroline Conerly, missionaries to Peru, are in the States (address: 4317 Iroquois St., New Orleans, LA 70126). He is a native of Osyka, and she is from Louisiana.

Virgil and Amy Cooper, missionaries to Korea, are on the field

(address: Yea Eui Do, P.O. Box 165, Seoul 150-601, Korea). He was born in Water Valley and later lived in Vicksburg. She is from Alabama.

Tony and Kathy Latham, missionaries to the Philippines, are in the States (address: 4829 Merida Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76115). He is from Jackson, and she is the former Kathy Jennings of Kosciusko.

Dennis and Sherrie Meilstrup, missionaries to Argentina, are in the States (address: Rt. 3, Box 146, Meridian, MS 39301). He is from Florida, and she is the former Sherrie Walker of Flora.

George Tupper, missionary to Bangladesh, has arrived on the field to begin his first term of service (address: P.O. Box 99, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh). He is a native of Starkville.

James and Charlotte Watts, missionaries to Italy, are on the field (address: Loc. LeCoste, 7, 50066 Reggello, FI, Italy). Both grew up in Pascagoula. She is the former Charlotte Lowe.



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Uniform God the Creator



By Michael O'Brien
Genesis 1:1-15

For the next several weeks we will look at the early portions of the book of Genesis. I pray we allow God to show us his truths from the pages of his Word; that we will understand what he did.

God created (v. 1). This first verse of God's Word is enormous. It says volumes. The one overriding truth that we can learn from it, that we can apply to life, and depend on is this: God is the all-powerful Creator, the same we learned about as children. Let's dismiss once and for all the "Big Bang" and evolution theories we have heard for the last 30 years. We live in an orderly universe that came into existence when God spoke. He created the world and man because he is God, he is sovereign, and he did it! When? In the beginning. What did he do? Created? What did he create? The heavens and the earth. This is truth, absolute truth, and it is all the Christian has to know. To discuss theories with unsaved people is to waste precious time.

God moved (v. 2). "Now the earth was formless and empty..." (NIV). This verse teaches that God has always been actively involved in his creative work. What God created, he also preserves.

Last year, I took an astronomy course at a local college. Studying the planets and stars proved to be a very rewarding experience which reaffirmed my faith. Looking through a high-powered telescope I could see millions, if not billions, of stars — everything revolving and traveling through space, nothing out of order. I remember remarking to my professor and the other students as I looked through the scope, "My God did that!"

God hovered over the water in the days of creation and he hovers over the world today, keeping them going just the way he planned.

God illuminated (vv. 3-5). Have you ever taken something for granted? For example, how could we exist without light? My daughter, Kelli, just returned from a mission trip to Alaska. Her first night home she "had to" go outside and see the stars. For two weeks in Alaska she had not seen any stars or moon; there were only a few hours of dusk a day. God created the conditions under which man is able to survive. Plant life needs a certain amount of light to thrive; too much is deadly. We are reminded that God does everything decently and in order. He provides what man needs, not what man wants. Today God wants to separate man from spiritual darkness and bring him into the eternal light of his son, Jesus Christ.

God separated (vv. 6-8). Do you remember the image of Blind Justice? A blindfolded woman holds a balance in her hand. Perfect balance is achieved when the tray on each side contains an equal amount of weight. God has given us a perfect balance in creation. In his perfect plan, he separated water underground from water on the surface and above ground, supplying water in perfect balance. Since we learn from his Word how God is able to keep perfect balance in a complex universe, should we not give him control of our finite lives?

God divided (vv. 9-13). People tell us the world is two-thirds water. Why? The answer is simple: When God divided the land and the water, that's how he wanted it. In verse 11, God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation." Most of us think of vegetation as fruits and vegetables. Try thinking of vegetation as a rose, or a field of clover, or a morning glory climbing a fence. Think of the beauty and diversity God provided for us. God did not have to give man dominion over the earth, but he did. Remember who created the earth, and who gave you dominion over it.

God decorated (vv. 14-15). On Aug. 14, there was a meteor shower which resulted from a comet passing near earth last year. Webster defines a meteor as "something that transiently dazzles." My family and I went out to a clear area in order to see the show, and witnessed some beautiful shooting stars. You do not have to wait another 130 years to enjoy the way God decorated the sky. God's handiwork is always apparent in the heavens.

Modern science has many unanswered questions about the universe. To those of us who believe, God has communicated what he has done for us, but not how. We are awed, but in faith we accept what one day will be revealed.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book

Love: God's and ours



By Jewel P. Merritt
1 John 4:7-21

Our church is one of several in the Jackson area that has a special ministry to the internationals in our city. Although we offer classes in reading, writing and conversational English, crafts, citizenship, etc., the main focus is love and acceptance. Often the internationals have told us that they have come to see this group as their family while they are far from home. I believe that Christian love on the part of the workers has brought this feeling into the hearts of the students. If we are God's people, we should be active in finding ways of expressing his love and ours to all people.

Love for others the sign of fellowship with God (vv. 7-12). In 1 John 3:1 John wrote of the great love God has bestowed or lavished on us that we should be called his children. Those of you who are also grandparents know about lavishing love on someone. Unfortunately, we are not always wise in our expressions of love. But God is perfect in all his actions. His extravagant love has been shown in this — that he sent his one and only son Jesus so that we might live through him.

Why did God act this way toward us? Because his nature is love, not a sentimental love but love that wants the best for us. "God is love" (v. 8b) is the first verse I recall memorizing. I didn't know then that God loved me while I was a sinner (Rom. 5:8). My parents and Sunday School teachers helped me begin to understand the accepting, sacrificing love of the Lord for me. These verses (7-12) are so simple, yet they are so deep that we could meditate on them for a lifetime. Love does not express itself in meditation alone, however. The last sentence in verse 12 reads, "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." God's love is to find expression in us. How exciting and awesome and humbling! God's love is finding expression in you and me! What message are we conveying to the world about God's love?

Our assurance in response to God's love (vv. 13-16). My husband and I recently celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary. What assurance do you have of your mate's love? A ring? It can be lost. A marriage license can, too. The best assurance you can offer each other is the inner trust you have in each other. What assurance do you have of God's love? Verse 13 says we can KNOW we are his because he has given us his Spirit. John goes on to say in verse 16 that we can rely on the love God has for us (NIV). No other assurance is needed.

Love's removal of fear (vv. 17-18). There is so much fear in the world — fear of terrorists, burglars, and abusive relationships. There is fear of failure, fear involving job security, fear of illness and death. John assured his readers that perfect love casts out fear. Proverbs 1:17 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." But the Christian's fear of the Lord is not terror but loving reverence. The more we know him, the more mature we become in the faith, the more we love him, the greater our trust in him grows.

Love for others required by love for God (vv. 19-21). It can't be stated any more plainly than this — you cannot love God and hate your brother! In verse 20 John wrote that it is possible to say that you love God. It is your actions that prove or disprove your words. I once taught a first grader who came to me many times a day and said, "I love you." His actions proved his words to be false. His work was poorly done. His behavior disturbed other children. I spent too much time disciplining and encouraging him. If we love someone, we want to be obedient and to please the one we love. Jesus has given us two commands. We are to love him with all our hearts, souls, and minds. Secondly, we are to love each other (Matt. 22:37-39). Even if we did not have these commands, we should respond to God's lavish love for us by loving him and others increasingly.

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work Christian ministry



By Mark A. Rathel
Deut. 15:1-11; Ps. 82:1-4;
Matt. 25:31-46; 1 John 3:17

People in the United States enjoy a high per capita standard of living compared to people in other countries. At the same time, a growing number of Americans live in poverty. According to Elizabeth K. Holmes of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, children are affected the most. According to the "Kids Count" report released in March 1993, Mississippi children experience the results of poverty conditions more than all other children in the nation. While the national average is one out of five children living in poverty, in Mississippi one out of three children is poor.

How is the church to react to people facing critical human needs? We must confess to God that our tendency is either to become paralyzed by inaction or to ignore the poverty problem altogether. God's Word will not allow us to be comfortable with either of these reactions.

Do not harden your heart (Deut. 15:1-11; Ps. 82:1-4). Universities grant sabbaticals to professors after a term of service, an opportunity for professors to conduct research and experience a release from classroom responsibilities. The agrarian economy of Israel was organized around the concept of a sabbatical release.

The sabbath rest for the land reminded the Israelites of God's claim to ultimate ownership of the land (Lev. 25:23). Every seventh year the land was to lie fallow (Lev. 25:4). Because of this command, most people would not be in a position to repay debt. All debts, therefore, were canceled during a sabbatical year. Biblical scholars disagree over whether the debts were to be terminated permanently or repayment suspended for one year. Deuteronomy 15, however, related God's intention in establishing the sabbatical year to his concern for the poor.

If the world lived in perfect obedience to God's commands, poverty would not exist (vv. 4-5). In a sinful world, God commands his people to have an attitude of warmth and generosity to poor people, rather than a condemning, critical attitude. God promised to bless individuals with an open-hearted, helpful attitude to the poor (v. 10).

Judgment is the theme of Psalm 82. God calls rulers to account for the unfavorable conditions for the poor. Note the strong action verbs in verses 3 and 4: vindicate, do justice, rescue, and deliver. God calls his people to action in the face of extreme human need.

Serve Christ (Matt. 25:31-46). The theme of the parable of the sheep and goats is judgment. The key descriptive words in the parable are blessed (v. 34) and cursed ones (v. 41). These descriptive terms should be translated "having been blessed" and "having been cursed." In other words, the principle of judgment is the prior decision one makes in regard to Christ. People who accept Christ are blessed already. People who reject Christ are cursed already.

The parable contains a surprise: ministry to the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned is ministry to Christ. Actions to alleviate need are not works to earn God's favor. Rather, they are the normal, spontaneous acts of God's children to human need. Our response to human need reveals our relationship to Christ.

Do not close your heart (1 John 3:17). When God's love resides within the hearts of people, they will minister to the needy. The kind of love which has God for its source reaches out to people in need.

God's Word can make us uncomfortable. Do you feel uncomfortable at this moment? Do not make excuses. Be obedient to God, take action to help the needy.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

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(to be continued)

Our kids are all Back in School.

For those of you who have already given to help cover the cost of getting them ready for their first day--

THANK YOU!

As of 8-25-93 we have received
\$79,322.12 towards our \$85,000.00 Goal.

I am confident the Lord will provide
the balance through His servants.

If you have not yet mailed your gift,
and would like to help with school
expense, it is not too late. There will
continue to be expenses throughout the
year. You can mail your gift to the
above address.



Uniform God the Creator



By Michael O'Brien
Genesis 1:1-15

For the next several weeks we will look at the early portions of the book of Genesis. I pray we allow God to show us his truths from the pages of his Word; that we will understand what he did.

God created (v. 1). This first verse of God's Word is enormous. It says volumes. The one overriding truth that we can learn from it, that we can apply to life, and depend on is this: God is the all-powerful Creator, the same we learned about as children. Let's dismiss once and for all the "Big Bang" and evolution theories we have heard for the last 30 years. We live in an orderly universe that came into existence when God spoke. He created the world and man because he is God, he is sovereign, and he did it! When? In the beginning. What did he do? Created? What did he create? The heavens and the earth. This is truth, absolute truth, and it is all the Christian has to know. To discuss theories with unsaved people is to waste precious time.

God moved (v. 2). "Now the earth was formless and empty..." (NIV). This verse teaches that God has always been actively involved in his creative work. What God created, he also preserves.

Last year, I took an astronomy course at a local college. Studying the planets and stars proved to be a very rewarding experience which reaffirmed my faith. Looking through a high-powered telescope I could see millions, if not billions, of stars — everything revolving and traveling through space, nothing out of order. I remember remarking to my professor and the other students as I looked through the scope, "My God did that!"

God hovered over the water in the days of creation and he hovers over the world today, keeping them going just the way he planned.

God illuminated (vv. 3-5). Have you ever taken something for granted? For example, how could we exist without light? My daughter, Kelli, just returned from a mission trip to Alaska. Her first night home she "had to" go outside and see the stars. For two weeks in Alaska she had not seen any stars or moon; there were only a few hours of dusk a day. God created the conditions under which man is able to survive. Plant life needs a certain amount of light to thrive; too much is deadly. We are reminded that God does everything decently and in order. He provides what man needs, not what man wants. Today God wants to separate man from spiritual darkness and bring him into the eternal light of his son, Jesus Christ.

God separated (vv. 6-8). Do you remember the image of Blind Justice? A blindfolded woman holds a balance in her hand. Perfect balance is achieved when the tray on each side contains an equal amount of weight. God has given us a perfect balance in creation. In his perfect plan, he separated water underground from water on the surface and above ground, supplying water in perfect balance. Since we learn from his Word how God is able to keep perfect balance in a complex universe, should we not give him control of our finite lives?

God divided (vv. 9-13). People tell us the world is two-thirds water. Why? The answer is simple: When God divided the land and the water, that's how he wanted it. In verse 11, God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation." Most of us think of vegetation as fruits and vegetables. Try thinking of vegetation as a rose, or a field of clover, or a morning glory climbing a fence. Think of the beauty and diversity God provided for us. God did not have to give man dominion over the earth, but he did. Remember who created the earth, and who gave you dominion over it.

God decorated (vv. 14-15). On Aug. 14, there was a meteor shower which resulted from a comet passing near earth last year. Webster defines a meteor as "something that transiently dazzles." My family and I went out to a clear area in order to see the show, and witnessed some beautiful shooting stars. You do not have to wait another 130 years to enjoy the way God decorated the sky. God's handiwork is always apparent in the heavens.

Modern science has many unanswered questions about the universe. To those of us who believe, God has communicated what he has done for us, but not how. We are awed, but in faith we accept what one day will be revealed.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book

Love: God's and ours



By Jewel P. Merritt
1 John 4:7-21

Our church is one of several in the Jackson area that has a special ministry to the internationals in our city. Although we offer classes in reading, writing and conversational English, crafts, citizenship, etc., the main focus is love and acceptance. Often the internationals have told us that they have come to see this group as their family while they are far from home. I believe that Christian love on the part of the workers has brought this feeling into the hearts of the students. If we are God's people, we should be active in finding ways of expressing his love and ours to all people.

Love for others the sign of fellowship with God (vv. 7-12). In 1 John 3:1 John wrote of the great love God has bestowed or lavished on us that we should be called his children. Those of you who are also grandparents know about lavishing love on someone. Unfortunately, we are not always wise in our expressions of love. But God is perfect in all his actions. His extravagant love has been shown in this — that he sent his one and only son Jesus so that we might live through him.

Why did God act this way toward us? Because his nature is love, not a sentimental love but love that wants the best for us. "God is love" (v. 8b) is the first verse I recall memorizing. I didn't know then that God loved me while I was a sinner (Rom. 5:8). My parents and Sunday School teachers helped me begin to understand the accepting, sacrificing love of the Lord for me. These verses (7-12) are so simple, yet they are so deep that we could meditate on them for a lifetime. Love does not express itself in meditation alone, however. The last sentence in verse 12 reads, "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." God's love is to find expression in us. How exciting and awesome and humbling! God's love is finding expression in you and me! What message are we conveying to the world about God's love?

Our assurance in response to God's love (vv. 13-16). My husband and I recently celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary. What assurance do you have of your mate's love? A ring? It can be lost. A marriage license can, too. The best assurance you can offer each other is the inner trust you have in each other. What assurance do you have of God's love? Verse 13 says we can KNOW we are his because he has given us his Spirit. John goes on to say in verse 16 that we can rely on the love God has for us (NIV). No other assurance is needed.

Love's removal of fear (vv. 17-18). There is so much fear in the world — fear of terrorists, burglars, and abusive relationships. There is fear of failure, fear involving job security, fear of illness and death. John assured his readers that perfect love casts out fear. Proverbs 1:17 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." But the Christian's fear of the Lord is not terror but loving reverence. The more we know him, the more mature we become in the faith, the more we love him, the greater our trust in him grows.

Love for others required by love for God (vv. 19-21). It can't be stated any more plainly than this — you cannot love God and hate your brother! In verse 20 John wrote that it is possible to say that you love God. It is your actions that prove or disprove your words. I once taught a first grader who came to me many times a day and said, "I love you." His actions proved his words to be false. His work was poorly done. His behavior disturbed other children. I spent too much time disciplining and encouraging him. If we love someone, we want to be obedient and to please the one we love. Jesus has given us two commands. We are to love him with all our hearts, souls, and minds. Secondly, we are to love each other (Matt. 22:37-39). Even if we did not have these commands, we should respond to God's lavish love for us by loving him and others increasingly.

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work

Christian ministry



By Mark A. Rathel
Deut. 15:1-11; Ps. 82:1-4;
Matt. 25:31-46; 1 John 3:17

People in the United States enjoy a high per capita standard of living compared to people in other countries. At the same time, a growing number of Americans live in poverty. According to Elizabeth K. Holmes of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, children are affected the most. According to the "Kids Count" report released in March 1993, Mississippi children experience the results of poverty conditions more than all other children in the nation. While the national average is one out of five children living in poverty, in Mississippi one out of three children is poor.

How is the church to react to people facing critical human needs? We must confess to God that our tendency is either to become paralyzed by inaction or to ignore the poverty problem altogether. God's Word will not allow us to be comfortable with either of these reactions.

Do not harden your heart (Deut. 15:1-11; Ps. 82:1-4). Universities grant sabbaticals to professors after a term of service, an opportunity for professors to conduct research and experience a release from classroom responsibilities. The agrarian economy of Israel was organized around the concept of a sabbatical release.

The sabbath rest for the land reminded the Israelites of God's claim to ultimate ownership of the land (Lev. 25:23). Every seventh year the land was to lie fallow (Lev. 25:4). Because of this command, most people would not be in a position to repay debt. All debts, therefore, were canceled during a sabbatical year. Biblical scholars disagree over whether the debts were to be terminated permanently or repayment suspended for one year. Deuteronomy 15, however, related God's intention in establishing the sabbatical year to his concern for the poor.

If the world lived in perfect obedience to God's commands, poverty would not exist (vv. 4-5). In a sinful world, God commands his people to have an attitude of warmth and generosity to poor people, rather than a condemning, critical attitude. God promised to bless individuals with an open-hearted, helpful attitude to the poor (v. 10).

Judgment is the theme of Psalm 82. God calls rulers to account for the unfavorable conditions for the poor. Note the strong action verbs in verses 3 and 4: vindicate, do justice, rescue, and deliver. God calls his people to action in the face of extreme human need.

Serve Christ (Matt. 25:31-46). The theme of the parable of the sheep and goats is judgment. The key descriptive words in the parable are blessed (v. 34) and cursed ones (v. 41). These descriptive terms should be translated "having been blessed" and "having been cursed." In other words, the principle of judgment is the prior decision one makes in regard to Christ. People who accept Christ are blessed already. People who reject Christ are cursed already.

The parable contains a surprise: ministry to the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned is ministry to Christ. Actions to alleviate need are not works to earn God's favor. Rather, they are the normal, spontaneous acts of God's children to human need. Our response to human need reveals our relationship to Christ.

Do not close your heart (1 John 3:17). When God's love resides within the hearts of people, they will minister to the needy. The kind of love which has God for its source reaches out to people in need.

God's Word can make us uncomfortable. Do you feel uncomfortable at this moment? Do not make excuses. Be obedient to God, take action to help the needy.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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JUNE 30, 1993

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Mr. Dale E. Farmer
Cheryl Smith
Lela Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Haverd
Mrs. Hilton (Frances) Lee
Dorcas SS, FBC, Sumrall
Mrs. Lillian Chambers Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Simmons
Carmen D. Lester
Mrs. Linda Cook
Mrs. Rachel L. Lever
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Martin
Dorcas SS, FBC Hazlehurst
Dr. & Mrs. Carl Bozeman
John W. Lifer
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Little
Margaret Livingston
Mrs. Floyd Griffin
Mr. Hubert Edward Lofton
Mrs. W.W. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram
Mr. W.D. Lofton
Dr. & Mrs. T. Scott McCay
P. Earl Malone
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Erwin Sr.
Mrs. Nina Marshall
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin W. Ellison Jr.
Robert Mason
Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Russell Jr.
Neal Massey
Ms. Louise B. McCray
Mr. Charles E. Mathis

Mr. & Mrs. Brax Batson
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Breland
Bob & Irah Dinkel
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Maples
Mary Dudley and Robert Regan
Ms. Wendy Traylor
Blain Sand & Gravel, Inc.
A.J. and Inez Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Howard
Ms. Dorothy M. Owen
Mrs. Christine M. Weaver
Freud & Elitha Tapp McCoy
Ms. Lila McCoy
William J. McDade
Mrs. Margaret M. Gully
Mildred Lorraine McKnight
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Rollins
Mr. Charles McMullen
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Ellison
Billy Wade McNeer
Roberta & Monroe Barrentine
Kenneth M. McNease
Mrs. Dorothy B. Bankston
Mr. Leo P. Clark
Frances McPherson
Ms. Inez R. McKinion
Mrs. Jewel Mang
Mrs. Royce Thompson
Janie K. Mitchell
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Ruth Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. S.K. Land
Mrs. Frances "Jinks" Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.
Mrs. Irene (Lett) Moore
Dorcas SS, FBC Sumrall
Biram Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Artis Fulton
Jessica Brooks Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Little
Ashley Morris
Alberta Morae
Homemakers SS, Shady Grove
Mrs. E.P. Mullen
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Shook
L.A. Murrell
Ms. Pennie S. Dempsey
T.E. Murtagh
Mr. & Mrs. Wilburn White
Wayne Neal
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Vandevender
Samuel "Sam" M. Neely
Dr. & Mrs. Chester H. Lake Jr.
Mrs. Ora Nelson
Mrs. L.E. Green
Mrs. Velma Nixon
Mrs. Gladys Medders
Mrs. Ann Norman
Mr. & Mrs. Cordie Clower
Mrs. Elbert Ray Norman
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Howard
Ralph Owen Sr.
Mrs. Pearly W. Hood
Arthur W. Pace
Ms. Lizzie J. Long
Mike Parsons
Mr. & Mrs. E.C. Parsons
Mr. James Postecost
Mr. & Mrs. Granville M. Martin Jr.
W.E. Patti, Sr.
Children of W.E. Pettit Sr.
Otha Pope
Mr. & Mrs. Theron Poole
Mr. Bill Price
Mrs. Thelma Woodyear
Christy Pruitt
Mr. Danny R. Gregory,
MS Farm Bureau
Mrs. Lucille Pruitt
Mr. & Mrs. Walter S. Jordan
Mrs. Martha Rainey
Mr. Danny R. Gregory
Mrs. Nell Ratliff
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Ray
Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Linch
Johanna Reed
Ms. Lynn G. Johnson
Mr. Johnny Reed
Mrs. Floyd Griffin
Mr. Joe Riser
Mrs. LaVonne L. Bishop
Mrs. Morris Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Wade H. Roberts
Mrs. Louise Robertson
Ms. Lillie S. Smith
James Rodgers

Mr. & Mrs. Mack Grantham
Eunice Rushing
Mrs. Louise D. Williams
Mrs. Lena Satterfield
Mrs. W.W. Thompson
Anna D. Shackelford
Mrs. W.W. Thompson
Alfred Shaw
Mrs. Walter Ladner
Alvin Shedd
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Wilson
Herman Shelton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Coleman
Janet P. Shelton
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Harris
William Kenneth Sizemore
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd
Mr. Nathaniel Smiley
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone
Key Woods & Van Smith, Sr.
Ms. Ann E. Smith
Mr. Harold L. Smith
Mr. Danny R. Gregory
Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Killens
James R. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Coleman Jr.
Mr. Paul Smith
Mr. & Mrs. James V. Whitaker Jr.
Ms. Marilyn O. Magee
Bob J. Snell
Carolyn and Reese Snell
Ray W. Snell
Mrs. Shirley Southerland
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Stanley
Jesse Fern Spencer
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Doolittle
Mr. Grady Spraberry
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Phillely
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Spraberry
Mr. J.H. Stallings
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Palmertree
Finton Stephenson
Eloise Crossley SS, FBC Columbus
Charles William Stevens
Mrs. Rose T. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph E. Van Naman
Mr. William Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth
Mrs. Evelyn Price Stockman
Mr. & Mrs. Max H. Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. Bryce Jordan
Mr. Leland L. Stokes Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Rowell
The Bill Robertson Family
Mr. James Carson
Ms. Patricia S. Robinette
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Poole
Mrs. Mary Louise Stout
Mrs. W.W. Thompson
Mr. C.D. Stracener
Gleaners SS, FBC Jackson
Mrs. Pauline Sumrall
Mr. & Mrs. T. Roscoe Hearon Jr.
John William (Bill) Tarver
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.
Nancy, John, Boo
& Cameron Bridges
Mr. E.K. Metcalfe Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Rowe
Mrs. Natalie Goodman
Memphis City Schools
Mental Health
Clyde Taylor
Mrs. June T. Brooks
Mrs. Mary Sue Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Todd
Mrs. Bobbye Thames
Mr. & Mrs. W.J. Simmons Jr.
Donald Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Russell Jr.
Mr. H.A. (Shorty) Thornton
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Hardy
Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle
Mr. & Mrs. Dewey Sanford
Mr. J.R. Tipton, Jr.
Singles Class, Hernando BC
Mrs. Laura Trever
Mrs. Fernell Chapins
Mr. Joel Tyler
Mr. & Mrs. L.C. Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Ellison
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Palmertree
Roy J. Tyler
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Breland
Mr. Hugh Van Norman
Mrs. Natalie Goodman
Mrs. Thelma Varnar
The Wyndell A. Varner Family

Mr. Aubrey Walker
Mrs. W.W. Thompson
Mrs. Lela Walsh
Mrs. Gay Maxwell and Cheryl
Mrs. Pearl Bell, Mrs. Ray Wals
Forest Baptist Church
Mother of Mrs. T.C. Walton
Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Merrill Sr.
Mrs. Beale Ward
Mrs. Gay Maxwell and Cheryl
Mr. Paul Herbert Watson, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Brown
Mr. Kelly Pylon
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Catledge
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn E. Crowe
Mrs. Natalie Goodman
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Joe E. Morgan
Mr. Edward Shackelford
Mr. Thomas Bruton
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Buchanan
Mrs. Adrene B. Hollingsworth
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Mr. & Mrs. Powell E. Poe
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Pylon
Mr. & Mrs. Tim E. Reynolds
Panther Bum Company
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Vandevender
Mrs. Audrey Webb
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Kenneth III
Velma White
Mr. & Mrs. McRae Limerick
Mr. Hylon Whittington
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Poole
Gladys Wichtowski
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd
Mrs. Mary Belle Williams
Ms. Mary Lynn Davis
Oleta Chapman, Louise Williams
Mrs. E.S. Welch
Mr. Theo Willis
Mr. & Mrs. Troy L. & Amanda King
Mrs. Modesta Roberts
Marilyn Shirley
Dr. L.C. Wilson
Long Street Friends & Neighbors
Mr. & Mrs. David M. Ferriss
Mrs. Lecta M. Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Lendon E. Brown
Mrs. Myrtle Wilson
Mrs. W.W. Thompson
Mr. James Doyle Winters
Mr. & Mrs. Billy W. Breithaupt
Eric Wolfe
Mr. Ronnie Rodgers
Mr. Vernon C. Womble
Adams & Union Baptist Association
Mr. Howard Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Sam M. Brand
Mr. Joe A. Wood
Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Green
Mr. Howard E. Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lovell
Dr. & Mrs. Norman O'Neal
Mrs. Doris M. Archer
Dr. & Mrs. James H. Brewer
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Carroll
Dr. & Mrs. Prentiss G. Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Landrum
Mr. Bob Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Scruggs
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton James
Mrs. R.C. Brynn
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Crosthwait Jr.
Mr. Marion Kellum Woods Sr.
Mr. Thomas Bruton
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth
Mr. & Mrs. George D. Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn E. Crowe
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Bruton
Mrs. Rose T. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. V. L. Sandifer
Brady Tyler Wooten
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Ward
Francis Worsham
Rev. & Mrs. D.C. Hartley
Mrs. Amelia Wortham

Mr. Walter Barbee
Mr. Fred P. Wren
Mr. & Mrs. Sanford McNease
Jimmy Gustin Jr.
Louis Young
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams
Mrs. Evelyn Young
Frances A. Hart

JULY 1, 1993 -
JULY 31, 1993

HONORS

Bertie Altman
Gleaners SS, Pilgrim's Rest BC
Mrs. Edna Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Schroeder
Mr. & Mrs. A.C. Pilgreen
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Deal
Ms. Lounez Hayes
Ethel & Conner Dempsey
Mr. & Mrs. Fred D. Evans Jr.
Jack Galey
Mrs. Marsha McKinney
Rev. Richard Green
Monticello Baptist Church
Mrs. Bess Hills
Alathian SS, Collins BC
Martha & John A., Jr. Howarth
Mr. & Mrs. Fred D. Evans Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Parnell
Mr. & Mrs. Donald A. Baker
Mrs. Ada Pinkston
Mr. & Mrs. A.C. Pilgreen
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Donald A. Baker
Dr. Thomas C. Turner
Dr. & Mrs. William B. Thompson
Mrs. Beulah Upton
Alathian SS, Collins BC

MEMORIALS

Farragut Twins
Miss Beatrice Brownlee
Sister of Mrs. A.L. Gray
Mrs. Edwin B. Carpenter
Mr. Sam Abbott
Mr. & Mrs. Reese Snell
Richard Abbrecht
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Barbee
Mrs. Audrey Alford
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Gary
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Blasingame
Robin Arnett
Nettie & Yergey Robinson
Lucy & Thomas Wright
Mr. Irby "Red" Atkinson
Van Vleet Baptist Church
Mack C. Atwood
Ora Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Moore
Mrs. Lowah Aultman
Nannie Mae & Martha B. Aultman
Mr. Thomas S. Austin
Miss Susan W. Johnson
Mrs. Eloise Bagley
Mr. & Mrs. John Corder
Mrs. Dorothy Lawler
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Vandevender
Mrs. Vance Bailey Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Smith
Mr. James Russell Bailey
Mrs. Mary Womack
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice
Mrs. Irma Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Harry C. Quinn Jr.
Prentiss Ball
Mrs. Louise F. Cathey
Jerry Banks
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Wigington
& Chad

"Fate" Barnes
Mr. & Mrs. Haughey D. Wallace Jr.
Mr. G.G. "Buddy" Barry
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Blackledge,
Mary Margaret & Adai
Mrs. Albert Bates
The Family of Rachel Butler Kyger
Mrs. Helen Bates
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis
Mrs. Dorothy W. Shaw
Mrs. Lora B. Bates
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred R. Smith
Mr. Larry Beall
Charlotte and Gerry Broome
Mrs. Lela Beall & Family
Beth Beatty
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Malone
Jewel and Floyd Malone
Mrs. Joe Beckum
Mr. & Mrs. Joe M. Crow Jr.
Mrs. Louise Bennett
Children IV SS, FBC Union
Claude Billings
Mr. & Mrs. C.B. Sledge
Mrs. Maude Bostner
Gleaners SS, FBC Crystal Springs
Mr. Joseph G. Bond
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn D. Gates
Winton Boone
Mrs. Anna Holden
Mr. & Mrs. Hiram B. Stanford
& Family
Mrs. Pearl Bott
Forest Baptist Church
Mr. David K. Bowen
Mr. & Mrs. Jack O'Neal
Lorene Bowman
Mr. & Mrs. David F. Baker
James E. Boyd
Mrs. Lavelle Holloway
Peggy Breazeale
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Kelly & Holly Kendrick
Mr. William Jack Breed
Mr. Kenneth C. Foose
Mr. & Mrs. W.W. Kelly Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Underwood
M/M Fred M. & Ann Louise Witty
Mrs. Mary Lou McNease
Mr. Howard Brent
Fidelis SS, FBC Crystal Springs
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Howard
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Papizan
Mrs. Ann C. Tillman
Von Bridges
Mrs. June T. Brooks
Mrs. Maria L. Britton
Mr. & Mrs. Jon & Family Jereck
Beale Broome
Mrs. Charlotte Broome and Family
Gaydis Brown
Mr. & Mrs. C.G. Cryder
Mrs. Ann L. Brown
Mrs. Don C. Templeton
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Raper
Mrs. Ruth Lakey Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Charley W. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Truman Aldridge
John Ellis Bryan
Mrs. Ora May S. Green & Howard
Mrs. Annie Grace Bryant
Whitten Bible Study, FBC Clinton
Mrs. Hazel Bullard
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel S. Bowling
Ms. Gwendlyn H. Davis
Mr. Felix Bullock
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Pickering
C.W. Burke
Mr. & Mrs. B.B. Bowen Jr.
Mr. Tommy Burkheimer
Mr. & Mrs. W.M. McElroy
Herbert Burns
Mr. Jamie A. Cuming III
Mr. John Burt
Mrs. Rachel C. Browning
Mrs. Alma Caldwell
Mr. & Mrs. T.W. Alston
Daniel Calhoun

Charlotte and Gerry Broome
Brian Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. C.M. Mitchell
Claude B. Cannon
Mr. & Mrs. Lowry Cockburn
Mrs. Lela Carr
Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Knight
Mr. H.E. Carraway
Siloson Baptist Church
Ms. Sallie S. Hutto
Leon H. Carter
Ruth, Gary & Family Finch
Clinton Castle
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones
Mr. T.W. Caves
Nettie & Yergey Robinson
Lucy & Thomas Wright
Mrs. Lizzie Chambers
Forest Baptist Church
Mrs. Gussie Clark
Ruth SS, Bovina BC
Mr. David Cochran
Ruth SS, Bovina BC
W.D. Conner
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Purvis Sr.
Dr. W.H. Cook
Mrs. Rea Stribling
Mr. Lyle V. Corey Sr.
Bellevue SS, Highland BC Meridian
Mr. & Mrs. John Hart
Mr. & Mrs. C.W. Makamson
George E. Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Albert E. Mosley Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Marion C. Pace
Rev. & Mrs. William F. Evans
Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Pigott
Mrs. Clayton E. Bain
Mr. Hayes Branscome
Mrs. Jack Knight
Kathryn Cottom
Mrs. Bernard B. Jones
Mrs. Wilma Coward
Ms. Margie M. Langston
Mrs. Susan Moore Crews
Mrs. Mary Nicholson
Mrs. Ann Arrington Cruise
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis McPhail
Mrs. Lavelle Holloway
Mable Crum
Mrs. Mable McBay
Robert Earl Cupit Jr.
Charlie & Stephen Cupit
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Pat Cupit
Mrs. Lela S. Cupit
Charlie & Stephen Cupit
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Pat Cupit
Mrs. Lela S. Cupit
Noah Currie
Mr. & Mrs. Turner Varcoe
Mrs. Russell Dalton
Ms. Donna T. Green
J.W. Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Jess Dickinson
Dessie Lee Davis
Mrs. Lavelle Holloway
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Speed
Miss Ruby Davis
Mrs. Curti Culpepper, Max
& Evelyn
Mrs. Dizzie Lee Davis
Mrs. E.F. Tyrone
John T. Degan, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen
Thomas DeVaney
Bethany SS, FBC Greenwood
Mrs. Lura Downs
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Raper
George William Durlay
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice
Mr. Arthur Eldman, Sr.
Edgewater Manor Phase II
Friendship Class,
North Greenwood BC
Mr. & Mrs. Myrl McCormick
Mrs. Estelle Wright Montjoy

(to be continued)

Our kids are all Back in School.

For those of you who have already given to help cover the cost of getting them ready for their first day--

THANK YOU!

As of 8-25-93 we have received
\$79,322.12 towards our \$85,000.00 Goal.

I am confident the Lord will provide
the balance through His servants.

If you have not yet mailed your gift,
and would like to help with school
expense, it is not too late. There will
continue to be expenses throughout the
year. You can mail your gift to the
above address.



